Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Did you register to vote in the upcoming CNMI delegate election?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

4 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

VP Debate
Under intense scrutiny, GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin stood her ground against a vastly more experienced Joe Biden.

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Recession-Proof
Since their jobs are "recession-proof," Filipino workers in the United States will not be hit hard by a looming recession there.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Ig Nobel
Strippers and armadillos inspire this year's batch of Ig Nobel winners.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

House passes budget bill with ban on funding Fitial's lawsuit

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives on Thursday evening passed a budget that gives the governor free rein over how to spend $75 million for the Executive Branch, but specifically bars him from using any public funds for the lawsuit he had filed against the U.S. government over the new immigration law.

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KEY POINTS

- Passes House by 15-4 vote
- Budget set at $165.37 million
  - $156.7 million in projected revenue
  - $5.17 million in Compact Impact aid
  - $3.5 million in "unencumbered" funds
- Lump-sum budget for Governor's Office
- Has restrictions vs funding federalization lawsuit

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plant in Lower Base.

Govt to pay for PSS' $414K CUC bill

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The CNMI government will pay for the Public School System's $414,000 October 2006 bill from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., PSS acting finance director Lori Grizzard said yesterday.

The CNMI government paid for PSS' utilities until Oct. 1, 2006, after which, PSS began paying for their own utility usage. The October 2006 bill covers the end of August and beginning of September cycle. She said the Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 bill should also be pro-rated, which would save the school system about $200,000.

The move comes after Grizzard and other PSS officials, including Education Commissioner Rita Sablan, and Tim Thornburgh, PSS Federal Programs director, met with CUC

See GOVT on Page 4

How much is $700 billion?

Shockwaves from the global credit crisis is spreading, threatening industry and jobs worldwide and putting pressure on the US Congress to pass a $700 billion bailout of the US financial sector.

But how much is $700 billion? In long form, that's $700,000,000,000—a 7 followed by 11 zeroes. What can it buy? Compared to the debt of the United States, which the US Treasury has asked to increase to $11.315 trillion to fund the plan, it doesn't seem much.

Here are a few of the things that can be done with $700 billion:

- The United States has spent more than $800 billion on wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001.
- Just 12 Bill Gateses could foot the bailout bill. The Microsoft founder tops Forbes' US rich list with a personal fortune estimated at $57 billion.
- Collectively, the 400 richest Americans have a net worth of $1.57 trillion, or roughly twice the value of the bailout.
- $700 billion is roughly equal to the GDP of Netherlands, or five times that of Pakistan.
- It is only $100 billion short of the combined GDP of all of Africa.
- It is only $78 billion more than the 2007 US defense budget.
- It would buy around 130 of the latest, biggest aircraft carriers, which cost about $5.3 billion each.
- The plan could be funded with the market capitalizations of the world's two largest oil companies, Exxon Mobil Corp and PetroChina, which stood at $403 billion and $325 billion respectively at Thursday's close of trading. There would even be $28 billion in change. ***(Reuters)***

RELATED NEWS

Wave of House converts jump aboard bailout bill. **PAGE 9**

'Rent out historic Marianas House'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Tenorio

The historic Marianas House—home to the office of the CNMI's resident representative in Washington, DC—could be put up for rent in the near future if Gov. Benigno Fitial follows a recommendation to lease the property for a profit.

See RENT on Page 4

Local

2 allegedly drunk men follow car, beat up driver

A man suffered serious injuries when two intoxicated men allegedly followed his car from San Vicente and ganged up on him when he reached his home in Chalan Kanoa Thursday midnight.

Police said the victim, Emmanuel Pamintuan, sustained a cut on the nose, bruises in the face, and swelling on the forehead and right temple.

Responding police officers arrested one suspect, Martino M. Omelau.

Omelau was taken to the Superior Court yesterday morning for a bail hearing. Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a $300 cash bail and $2,700 unsecured bond for the temporary release of the defendant.

Preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 10 and the arraignment for Oct. 20.

Detective Joaquin Deleon Guerrero stated in his report that on Thursday at 12:09am a complaint of a disturbance along Texas Road in Chalan Kanoa was reported to the Department of Public Safety.

A responding police officer's investigation showed that Pamintuan had just gotten home when another car with license plate ACH-645 pulled up into his driveway. Two men got out from the car and told Pamintuan to leave.

The victim told the two that he was on his property and that they should be the ones to leave.

One of the two suspects pulled out a cell phone and dialed a number, claiming it was 911.

Unsure whether it was indeed 911, Pamintuan spoke on the phone and reported that there were two men on his property and were telling him to leave.

The victim said he doesn't remember what happened next, but that he was hit on the head and face by the two suspects.

Another responding police officer later stopped Omelau in Chalan Kanoa village and brought him to Pamintuan.

The victim identified Omelau as one of the two men who beat him up. The suspect was placed under arrest.

Deleon Guerrero said that in his interview with Omelau, the suspect admitted to being involved in the incident.

Deleon Guerrero said Omelau claimed that he and his brother Roland Martin were drinking beer at his (Omelau) house in San Vicente prior to the incident.

Omelau said he saw a car parked on the road directly across his house and that nobody got down.

When he and Martin got on their vehicle to go to the store, Omelau said the car across the street left. He said they followed the car all the way to Chalan Kanoa where it stopped at a house.

Omelau said he dialed 911 and gave the phone to the driver [Pamintuan].

Omelau claimed that the driver hit him in the face, resulting in the fight.

Detective Deleon Guerrero said Omelau admitted that he repeatedly kicked and punched Pamintuan in the head and body. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SPIRIT WEEK JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Grace Christian Academy first grade students cheer to show their school spirit during the school's celebration of its annual Spirit Week.

Labor proposes amendments to employment rules, regulations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor is seeking public comments to its proposed amendments to current employment rules and regulations.

Labor filed the proposed rules and regulations to introduce changes to the current rules and regulations before the Commonwealth Registrar's Office.

According to Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas, the proposed revisions are intended to incorporate emergency regulations for the implementation of the federalization cap and the exclusion of unskilled workers.

In Labor's public notice, San Nicolas said the proposed revisions are also to renumber the regulations to conform with the numbering system adopted for the NMI Administrative Code.

The other goal, he said, is to incorporate new practices brought about by the implementation of the automated processing system and interactive website that are now integral parts of Labor.

Labor says the proposed rules and regulations are promulgated due to the following reasons:

- To implement the changes that have arisen because Labor has changed its procedures as it brought its new automated processing online and covered certain operations to its new interactive website.
- In response to requests that certain revisions should be made from participants in the community meetings that Labor convened to discuss the first six months of operation under the new labor law.

Anyone who wishes to provide comments to the proposed rules and regulations may send their comments to Labor Deputy Secretary Cinta M. Kaipat at DepSec2@gmail.com with the subject line "New ERAR".

Comments are due within 30 days from Sept. 25, 2008, which is the date of publication of the notice.

Blown transformer causes outage

A blown transformer caused a short power outage to areas within feeder 4 and 7 yesterday.

The feeders include Kagman, Capitol Hill, Papago and San Roque, among others.

A transformer in Kagman blew around 2 pm, tripping its feeder and feeder 7. The problem was fixed about an hour later. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

NMC offers computer literacy courses

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their computer application skills. The courses are offered as part of the college's mission to provide customized, continuing educational and professional development opportunities in response to community needs.

The classes, which are designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers. The schedule and course fees are listed below. For a more detailed description of each course, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

How to Properly Use a Keyboard (Keyboarding)
October 14-17, 2008 (5-7pm)
Fee: $60

Understanding Personal Computers (PCs) and How They Work
October 20-22, 2008 (5-7pm)
Fee: $35

E-mail: The Best Way to Communicate
October 23-24, 2008 (5-7pm)
Fee: $25

How to Use Word Processing Applications
October 27-31, 2008 (5-8 pm)
Fee: $90

Creating Digital Presentations
November 3-8, 2008 (4:30-8:30 pm)
Fee: $90

How to Use Spreadsheet Applications
November 10-14, 2008 (5-9 pm)
Fee: $90

CDI will also be offering its Customer Service and Administrative Training Courses in late November into early December. For a schedule of these classes, please log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

All interested individuals should register at least seven days before the first day of class. Certificates of attendance and competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class. To register or for information about these classes, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call 234-5498 extension 1005 or e-mail dattao@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

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Nissan, Toyota reign in August car sales

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Sales of Nissan and Toyota brand vehicles dominated the automotive market in the CNMI during August yet the statistics for the month showed nearly a 10-percent decline in car sales compared to August of last year among each of Saipan's major dealerships, according to newly released statistics from the Commonwealth Auto Dealer's Association.

Vehicle sales are a key indicator of economic health in the CNMI, CADA president Matthew Deets noted in a Friday interview, and for car dealers, August was a slow month.

"Overall the economy is still stagnant," he said. "On a positive note, at least it's not getting worse."

Deets attributed some of the Nissan sales at Joeten Motors to the newly released Nissan Rogue sport utility vehicle's popularity on Saipan. And while car sales have been slow, he said the local economic turmoil has prompted a jump in the sale of parts and services for older cars.

"We're seeing people trying to maintain their cars so they'll run longer and they don't have to buy another one," he said, adding that the closure of some auto mechanic shops on the island has also given his dealership a larger share of the parts market.

According to CADA's monthly report, the Microl Corp.'s dealership sold 20 Toyotas in August, just two sales shy of its total for the same month last year. Meanwhile, Joeten Motors moved 13 Nissan vehicles last month, a 160-percent jump over the five it sold in August 2007.

Joeten Motors sold the highest number of cars in August, 21, with the Microl Corp. trailing slightly at 20 sales. Triple "J" Motors sold six cars.

Car sales for the entire market are down 9.62 percent compared to August of last year. The 47 vehicles sold in August represent slightly fewer sales than the 52 cars dealerships moved in August 2007. The bulk of the vehicles sold last month consisted of cars and sport utility vehicles. Dealerships sold 25 cars, 4 trucks, 1 van and 17 SUVs.

In 2008 to date, the automotive market has seen only modest gains over last year, with sales increasing by 1.01 percent.

Exercise class aims to prevent diabetes

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the Club Hinemlo-ta organization, a diabetes prevention program, follow their facilitator's lead at a local pool. The program is run by volunteers under the Diabetes Coalition and Ayuda Network.

Pilot participants in Club Hinemlo-ta, a swimming exercise program, have lost more than 150 pounds, said Pam Carhill, manager at the Commonwealth Health Center Physical Therapy Department.

The program, run by volunteers under the Diabetes Coalition and Ayuda Network, aims to reach people who are diabetic or pre-diabetic and unable to exercise in a gym or along the beach pathways, she said.

"We're looking to help out people that their doctor told them there is nothing they can do," she said. "I've heard stories of woman saying 'I've slowly gotten bigger, and I don't know what to do to exercise, because if I go out for a walk I have to sit and rest.'"

The pool is a good place to exercise because people lose 80 percent of their weight in the pool, making exercise easier on the joints, she said. The exercise is low-impact and follows the American Diabetic Association recommendation of three days a week of activity. Many participants are in the pool five days a week, though, she added.

Since the program started in July 2007, no pre-diabetic participants have become diabetic, Carhill added. The 68 participants range in weight from 200 to more than 400 pounds, while the youngest participant is in her 20s and the oldest is 74.

The class was first held at Aqua Resort Club but it has expanded to Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan and Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. A *man'amko* class was also added at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. They are hoping to add a class at the Palms Resort Saipan soon, Carhill said. Right now the program is only open to women.

All of the instructors are volunteers, and many started out initially as participants. The group warms up and stretches and works up to an hour of exercise, she said, adding that it helps to exercise with other people.

"I think a lot of people won't exercise unless you have friends with you, I know I won't without a friend," she said.

Club Hinemlo-ta is looking for more volunteer exercise facilitators to lead the group. Carhill has also started a waiting list for those interested in joining the club. Email swimsaipan@yahoo.com for more information.

Micronesia Conservation Trust links up with Citi to help manage its funds

HAGATNA, Guam—The Micronesia Conservation Trust has appointed Citi Smith Barney to provide investment consulting and custody services to the MCT Endowment Fund.

The Asia Pacific Group, headed by senior institutional consultant Daniel A. Roland, CIMA, of the Hagatna, Guam office, will provide the specialized advice tailored to the organization with the investment consulting services available through Consulting Group, the managed account division of Citi Smith Barney.

The MCT is a regional organization chartered under Federated States of Micronesia laws to support biodiversity conservation and related sustainable development for the people of Micronesia.

Created in 2002, MCT is the only Micronesia-based organization set up to provide long-term, sustained funding to community-based organizations and other non-governmental organizations through a grants program.

The MCT is working to mobilize funding from a variety of public and private sources to build an endowment of US $20 million to provide long-term support for sustainable biodiversity resource management in Micronesia.

"The global investment environment presents significant challenges and opportunities to institutional investors like the Micronesia Conservation Trust," said Roland.

He said his Guam-based team uses the published research and analysis of Consulting Group to help institutional clients develop investment strategies focused on achieving long-term goals.

Aren Palik, board vice chairman and chairman of the Investment Committee said: "With the specialized tools and resources provided by Consulting Group, we will now be well-equipped to develop investment policy statements, determine asset allocation strategies, select appropriate investment management firms, conduct disciplined rebalancing strategies and monitor our Fund's results over time."

Palik pointed out "a major concern of the board of trustees was the safety of the MCT Fund, especially in these times of financial instability among financial institutions. We felt that the combination of insurance safeguards, and the most secure capital structure offered by Citi, made them by far the most secure choice as custodian of our assets". ***(Citi)***

Guam to have new veterans outpatient clinic

WASHINGTON—Veterans on Guam came one step closer to having a new, 6,000 square-foot outpatient clinic to replace the current one when the Department of Veterans Affairs awarded a construction contract to Reliable Builders, Inc. last week.

The replacement outpatient clinic vastly increases the size of the existing 3,800 square-foot VA clinic at the naval hospital. The new clinic will be located near the Naval Hospital Guam's main gate and include a new entry road, parking lot and service area, so veterans will no longer have to clear through Naval Base security.

With a planned completion date in December 2009, the new clinic will have a reception room with waiting area, exam and treatment rooms and telehealth capabilities.

"With this new clinic, VA will be better suited to serve the more than 9,000 veterans living on Guam," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs James Peake, who is in Hawaii this week attending a summit on the Future of Health Care in the Insular Areas. "Veterans and their representatives have long been asking for more VA presence on the island. This new clinic will provide a big step in that direction."

The existing clinic employs a staff of 11, including an internal medicine physician, psychiatrist and nurse practitioner. It provides primary and mental health care, limited specialty services and physical exams for VA's compensation and pension benefits.

"Many people are not aware of the contribution that Guam's veterans have made to our nation. For example, Guam had more casualties per capita than any state in the Union," said Peake. "Since World War II, men and women of Guam have served in every conflict. We owe them access to the world-class health care of VA. They have earned it." ***(VA)***

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MISSION

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I will move our Commonwealth forward with the freshest ideas, renewed energy, and dedicated commitment needed to (I) reinstate our good relationship with the United States, (2) include Chamorros and Carolinians as distinct Native Americans equal to Native American Indians and Native American Hawaiians in terms of protection, respect and enhancement of indigenous culture and traditions, (3) rejuvenate our economy, (4) advance quality and affordable health care, (5) support our men and women in uniform (soldiers, police officers, etc.) to ensure our safety, (6) improve the quality of education, and (7) mandate on cleaning up the environment.

9. Atalig Felipe Norita Quitugua

American Samoa budget becomes law

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa, (Samoa New/PIR)—After line item vetoing all of the Fono's amendments to the fiscal year 2009 budget, Acting Governor Faoa Aitofele Sunia signed the document into law Wednesday evening, just before the start of the new fiscal year.

The Fono-approved budget totaled US$340.87 million after cutting US$224,000 from TOFR and US$136,000 from ASG's US$1 million electricity budget with the total (US$360,000) re-allocated to eight agencies.

However, after Faoa exercised his line-item veto authority, the final budget was reduced by US$394,500 putting the final total FY 2009 budget at US$340.46 million.

The difference occurred because of what categories the Fono chose to put in the re-allocated funds.

For example, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was re-allocated US$100,000 by the Fono for equipment, but they placed the amount in the 'personnel costs' category. The agency had an allocation from the governor of US$27,500 in the personnel costs category under the Enterprise Fund to jump start it under its new jurisdiction - the Department of Public Safety.

When Faoa line-item vetoed the category, to remove the re-allocated US$100,000, he eliminated the full amount of US$127,500, leaving no money for personnel costs. The only funding for EMS now, is the US$797,500 ASG general subsidy for contractual services.

Other affected agencies, that lost all funding under a specific category during the line item veto is US$54,500 for Agriculture Department in its All Others category and US$52,500 for the Public Defender's Office in its All Others category.

Other agencies that received extra money from the Fono and were line item vetoed by the acting governor with no effect to their original budget - are Department of Homeland Security, Office of Property Management, Department of Local Government, Election office and Airport Division.

In a September 30 letter to the Fono leadership, Faoa said the proposed FY 2009 budget, as submitted to the Fono for review, was the product of input from budget authorities and overall agency program requirements.

"This being the posture of the proposal, there is an inherent interest in protecting the details and the spirit of the bill as submitted," he wrote. "While I understand the intent of altering funding amounts for specific line items in our budget, I must remind you that every single branch of the government, every semi-autonomous agency and every Executive Branch department deals, year in and year out, with these very pressures and budget constraints."

He said these pressures are nothing new to any branch or department in government.

Copies of the acting governor's letter and final budget were distributed to lawmakers yesterday and there was no official comments from the Fono leadership.

ASG sources told Samoa News yesterday that the governor and Faoa are not happy or pleased with department directors, who went to the Fono and asked for more money, "knowing very well that this is the final budget based on revenue projections and every department and agency has to live within those financial means."

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Vanuatu PM survives no-confidence vote

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Vanuatu's new government has comprehensively defeated an opposition-sponsored vote of no confidence 31 votes to 20. It was the second vote in as many weeks for the two-week old government of prime minister Edward Natapei. Communications Director for the Pacific Institute of Public Policy, Derek Brien, says there are signs now that no-confidence-motions against new governments are becoming increasingly unpopular in the wider community. "Just from some of the speeches that were made in parliament this morning about the need to bring about a sense of stability for the national interest is something that is being discussed out on the street as well," he said. "I think what today's vote has cemented the need to actually give some sort of surety that the government can get on with the job of governing."

Fiji drought could cause power outages

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—The Fiji Electricity Authority has warned of power shedding or rotating blackouts if the dry spell continues. FEA Chief Executive Officer Hasmukh Patel said rainfall at Monasavu in September had been low but they were hopeful that the rainfall would pick up as the country approached the wet and cyclone season. In a presentation to FEA's corporate customers, Mr. Patel said if there was no further water inflows to Monasavu this month, the dam level could reach the minimum safe operating level by the end of the month. He said there was a danger that this situation could become a potential repetition of the 2003 water crisis which cost FEA FJ$22 million [US$13 million] to import temporary diesel generators.

Cook Islands looks to cut health costs

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—Health services in the Cook Islands may soon be cheaper, if the islands cabinet approves new legislation next week. The Cook Island News reports, the ministry of health has recently reviewed fees and is recommending that adults in Rarotonga now pay US$3 for a doctor's consultation, instead of four. Cook Islands Health secretary, Dr. Roro Daniel, says the main reason for the rate cut is that most locals are on low incomes and the fee needs to be more affordable. Children up to the age of 16 and those over 60 years old will still not be charged to see a doctor.

Alcohol ban in Nouméa continues this weekend

SUVA, Fiji (Oceania Flash/PIR)—New Caledonia's experimental weekend ban on the sale and consumption of alcohol is to be re-imposed for a second weekend, the French High commission said. The measure was first introduced in New Caledonia's capital Nouméa and its close suburbs from Friday, Sept. 26, at 7pm until Sunday, Sept. 28, at midnight, on an experimental basis. But what was first announced as a one-off will now be re-conducted, after initial results showed last week's ban had a very real impact on the small delinquency and alcohol-related crime rate in the areas concerned. This weekend, the ban is imposed not only on Nouméa but also to its three suburban towns, Dumbéa, Mont-Dore and Païta. The measure mainly aims at assessing the effectiveness of an alcohol ban to reduce the number of crimes committed in the capital and its suburbs, mostly as a result of open-air drinking sessions by youths.

HOUSE

From Page 1

By a 15-4 vote, the House sent the fiscal year 2009 appropriation bill on its way to the Senate, where it is expected to meet strong opposition. Senate leaders are against granting a lump sum budget to the Executive Branch.

The House-passed budget appropriates $165.37 million in resources, including $156.7 million in projected government revenue, $5.17 million in Compact Impact aid, and $3.5 million in "unencumbered" funds from different accounts outside the general fund.

The restriction against funding the federalization lawsuit was one of the major amendments made to the budget bill during debate on the House floor. Rep. Diego T. Benavente, who moved to include the prohibition, said the CNMI government simply could not afford the lawsuit, which he said could cost much more than the initial $400,000 estimate.

Rep. Victor Hocog, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and main sponsor of the budget bill, voted against the bill after the lawsuit funding was inserted. Hocog argued that the pending federal takeover of local immigration is against the Covenant's promise of self-government and should be challenged in court.

"Whether our forefathers understood then that it would different today is a question that could not be answered by any of us today. But what seems obvious is the fact that what my father voted for in the morning hours of the plebiscite is not what is on the table for dinner last night," he said.

Hocog added, "Our recourse would, therefore, be a challenge in the courts of law as accorded by the Covenant, or in our quest to reconsider the questions of our political union in the very body that safeguards the provisions that which were assured to bind such relations with the United States, the United Nations World Court."

In a statement yesterday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial urged House leaders to reconsider their decision. He said that like himself, the lawmakers "are elected to protect and defend the rights of the people, including their rights of local self government."

He claimed that the CNMI economy would suffer as much as a 60-percent decline under a federalized labor and immigration system. He added that federalization would reduce the CNMI's annual budget to less than $80 million, an amount that he said is "not even enough to keep all the hospitals and schools in the CNMI open." He also cited the loss of some $5 million in nonresident labor application fees once federalization takes effect.

"I call on all the legislators who oppose the lawsuit to please join me in protecting and defending not only the local economy but most especially our rights of local self-government. We owe this to the people of the CNMI," he said.

Another point of contention was the lump sum appropriation for the Executive Branch. Representatives Edward Salas and Tina Sablan cited the provision as the primary reason they voted against the bill.

Sablan said that giving a lump-sum budget to the Executive Branch is no different from granting the governor an unlimited reprogramming authority. "We're not calling it by that name, but that's exactly what it is," she said.

Aside from his objection to the lump sum budget, Salas said he opposed the bill because it did not address the $9 million shortfall the government was reported to have incurred last fiscal year.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, the other lawmaker who voted against the budget, raised concern about a provision requiring agencies to obtain legislative approval for any hiring. He said it was an act of micromanagement.

RENT

From Page 1

Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio has told the governor that he would like to see the house, which sits in the Embassy Row section of the city, rented after he leaves it at the end of his term, he said in an interview earlier this week. The new non-voting delegate to Congress, he added, will have an office on Capitol Hill, meaning the house could cease to be necessary.

The history behind the house gives the CNMI added incentive to preserve it, he noted, yet maintenance costs could add up without a renter.

"It's an historic place and, at the same time, it's going to require some expense to maintain it, so I've recommended that we should look at a rental," he said. "I'm leaving the final decision up to the governor. Hopefully, he will discuss this with the Legislature."

Tenorio added that the house is the only property the CNMI owns on the continental United States and it has served as the office of every resident representative in the Commonwealth's history. The income from renting it, he said, could benefit the local government even if it nets only a few thousand dollars each month.

"It's going to be a challenge to manage it and we have all kinds of other problems right now," he said. "But even if we just get 3 or 4 thousand dollars a month from it, that would certainly add up to a good amount of money each year."

Charles Reyes, the governor's spokesman, said several options for what to do with the house are already on the table, including the prospect of renting it to someone.

"The governor is open to any rational proposal that would have financial gains for the Commonwealth," he said, noting that other options include selling the house or letting the new Washington delegate use it even though he will have a congressional office.

"There are several options and we're open to proposals," he added.

GOVT

From Page 1

executive director Antonio Muña and CUC financial officials yesterday to discuss PSS' debt.

PSS and CUC are reconciling another $600,000 that PSS officials believe they have been overcharged. The two agencies are expected to come to a resolution by Monday or Tuesday, Grizzard said.

Muña has said PSS owes CUC $1.8 million in overdue payments. PSS had denied they owed any money until records obtained by the *Saipan Tribune* showed they owe at least $1.2 million for fiscal year 2008, not including the month of September. To avoid future discrepancies, a monthly reconciliation will take place between CUC and PSS, Muña said.

He said PSS' payment should be received by next week. The money, along with $1.6 million that is due from the central government, will "help pay for everything," at CUC, Muña said, including fuel, the Aggreko generators, chlorine and CUC payroll.

A $504,000 payment to Aggreko for the emergency generators is due in one week.

When asked if CUC would have the funds to make the payment, Muña said, "We're going to pay it. We'll have the money."

As long as PSS and the government make the payments, everything should be fine, he added.

"It's about everybody coming together," he said. "We are supplying a service, and I think everyone appreciates that now."

Muña said he continues to communicate daily with Finance Secretary Eloy Inos about the government's payment.

"He [Inos] knows our situation and problems with operating revenues," Muña said, adding that the government and PSS must make their payments just like commercial customers.

Inos could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the administration knows the government owes CUC money, but like other people, is coping with a financial crisis. Inos knows it is a priority to pay for the generators, Reyes added.

"I think we will be able to make it. Financial matters are always a challenge," he said, adding that the government did a lot to help CUC obtain the generators. A legislative re-appropriation of money could be a possibility, Reyes said, but he did not want to go into details.

Under the 12-month Aggreko contract, CUC paid an initial $1.5 million and are required to pay $504,000 28 days after the generators were turned on, which was Sept. 12.

Reyes said the administration does not want to breach the contract.

"Our credibility is at stake," he said. "You've got to keep your word."

Rota joins international coastal cleanup

Every year in September the Ocean Conservancy holds its annual International Coastal Cleanup activities, during which hundreds of thousands of people in more than 75 countries from all over the world work together and remove land-based trash from waterways and beaches.

This year on Sept. 19, 2008, in observance of this important occasion, the Coastal Resources Management Office sponsored the activity on the island of Rota, garnering support from an estimated 312 participants.

Among those seen helping clean up Rota's coastal beaches were Senate President Pete Reyes, Senate Vice President Felix Mendiloa, Senator Paul Manglona, Senator Paterno Hocog, the Sinapalo Elementary School, Rota Jr. High School, Rota High School, Department of Lands Natural Resources, Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Public Safety, Office of the Mayor, Community and Cultural Affairs, Northern Marianas College, 12th Rota Municipal Council, CNMI Fish & Wildlife, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Commonwealth Ports Authority, Blue Palms Dive Shop, Rota Resort & Country Club, and various community stakeholders.

This year the event focused on a half-mile stretch of shoreline property along Songsong Beach and the Sasanlago Lagoon waters.

Volunteers were able to remove an accumulated total of 559 pounds of land-based trash and an estimated 10.5 tons of metal debris, mostly found within the lagoon waters and along the shoreline.

"It was very surprising to see all the concerned citizens converge at one time to remove trash and clean up our shores," said William T. Pendergrass, Coastal manager for CRMO. "The commitment of the Rota community in taking back our beaches from pollution is commendable as it reflects their interest in securing a clean and healthful environment for everyone to enjoy.

"What was more impressive was the appearance and participation of the Senate President Reyes, Senate Vice President Mendiola, Senator Manglona and Senator Hocog walking side by side with community stakeholders collecting trash and donating their valuable time. This is remarkable as it shows a deep commitment to community-based projects and their sincere interest in cleaning our island's coastal environment.

"If we are to ever free our waterways and coastal resources from pollution then we must all work together everyday as we proved we can today. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all who participated; it shows our desire for a clean environment," said Pendergrass. ***(PR)***

FSM bank awarded $466,254

HILO, Hawaii—The USDA Rural Development announced a $466,254 award to the Federated States of Micronesia Development Bank to finance business facilities and community development projects.

Funds awarded were made available through Rural Development's Intermediary Relending Program, which provides loans to private nonprofit organizations or public entities (intermediary). The program's purpose is to alleviate poverty and increase economic activity and employment in rural communities by establishing revolving loan funds to help finance businesses and promote economic development.

Loan funds will be utilized to establish a revolving loan fund for business and community development in the Federated States of Micronesia. The establishment of the IRP fund will set aside funds that will give priority to start-up and medium enterprises and assist existing small and medium business enterprises in need of working capital and to improve or expand services.

According to Lorraine P. Shin, USDA Rural Development State Director for Hawaii and the Western Pacific, "This partnership of Rural Development and the FSM Development Bank is a positive step in promoting economic development in the area."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Additional information about rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office, or on USDA's Web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov, or the Hawaii State Office Homepage at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/hi/. ***(PR)***

Tenorio: VA knows NMI not foreign

CNMI Resident Representative Pete A. Tenorio has assured CNMI veterans eligible for medical benefits that the Veterans Administration has not changed any policy toward them or the CNMI.

"If there is a problem with any of our veterans being told that they are not eligible for transportation costs because the CNMI is 'foreign,' it is a clerical error and if they contact me, my office will see that it is corrected," said Tenorio.

"My office in D.C. has contacted the VA Administrator's Office, and has been reassured that there has been no change in policy and that they are completely aware that the CNMI is not foreign. I have also met with Ms. Ruth Coleman, executive officer for the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office, who informed me that she has been in contact with the Honolulu VA Office and has been assured that there has been no change in VA policy toward the CNMI," said Tenorio. "Ms. Coleman further assured me that the VA will issue a letter that will clarify positions of care within the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa and Micronesia."

"I urge any veteran who has been denied transportation costs by the VA to contact my District Office at 664-5651, or the Veterans Affairs Office at 664-2650 immediately. I will work with VA personnel to resolve the problem as quickly as possible," he added. ***(PR)***

Felipe
Norita Quitugua Atalig
for U.S. Congress

Goals & Objectives

* **Economic Revitalization:** Introduce and seek Congressional approval for an economic growth revitalization initiatives for the CNMI.
* **CIP Funds:** Immediately remove CIP matching requirement to allow CNMI to purchase new generators from existing unmatched CIP funds
* **Inclusion of CNMI in US Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) of 1990:** $100,000 for individual patient with Cancer, Thyroid, Leukemia and other illnesses.
* **Healthcare:** Increase Federal Medicaid funding and remove local matching requirement so that more indigenous CNMI residents have access to adequate health care.
* **Medical Referrals:** Work to secure revisions to Medicare rules to provide CNMI residents with coverage for emergency medically referred care at accredited facilities in the Philippines.
* **Quality Medical Care:** Granting of Special Rural designation so that the CNMI can avail of cheaper quality drugs and medical services from countries offering comparable quality for less money.
* **Reduce Health Disparities:** Secure congressional support to have the CNMI citizens included in the Health Equity and Accountability Act (H.R 3014) which addresses linguistic and culture barriers by requiring federal health agencies to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities.
* **Compact-Impact Assistance:** Increase and make mandatory federal compact assistance for the CNMI.
* **Expanding Opportunities for CNMI Small Businesses:** Introduce Legislation adding all of the CNMI to the U.S. Small Business Administrator's Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUB Zone Program), giving qualified CNMI small businesses preferences in federal contracting.
* **Environmental Contamination Cleanup:** Increase funding to survey and cleanup contaminated areas.
* **Promote Chamorro and Carolinian Culture:** Secure congressionally directed funding for the Chamorro and Carolinian arts and humanities.
* **Chamorro and Carolinian Bilingual Bi-cultural Program:** Seek re-authorization of congressional funding for the Chamorro and Carolinian Bilingual Bi-cultural Education instruction programs.
* **US Postal and State and Zip Code Identity:** Mandatory inclusion of MP and 670 and 96950 in all business database across the United States
* **Workforce Investment, Development, Growth and Retention:** Increase funding and eligibility of technical and post secondary training with necessary changes that ensures training and permanent employment of our youths.
* **Military Build-Up:** Work with congress to include Tinian in the military build-up activities.
* **Extension of Submerged Land Ownership:** Work with US Congress to recognize and respect the ownership of submerged lands by CNMI descent inclusive of all minerals and marketable resources. .
* **War Reparation:** Revisit the War Reparation Statute to ascertain completeness and fairness of compensation to individuals and families of war victims.
* Work with the U.S. Congress and state universities to secure local state tuition privileges for our student in availing of state post secondary education in any of the Union.
* **Rota Seaport Modernization:** Work with Congress to establish funding for more affordable and permanent seaport by rehabilitating the old Japanese seaport at Ilig.
* **Cultural Urbanization of Songsong Village-Rota:** Convince members of Congress for funding to culturalized Songsong into a cultural village with its unique characteristics being the prominence display.
* **Sustainable Tourism Initiative/Eco-Tourism:** The local government has designated Rota as an ideal island for Eco-tourism and will press for congressional financial assistance to truly implement the Real-Deal for tourists destination.
* **Human Development Occupational Institute:** In conjunction with CNMI college and its Board of Regents will seek federal assistance to support the establishment of Human Development Occupational Institute using the Rota college campus.
* **Youth Action Funds:** Established Congressional earmarks to support this program which aims to identify, inspire and support dedicated young people who can mobilize their peers to promote strong ideals.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

China's food failures

As the scandal over melamine-tainted infant formula deepens, the Chinese government's massive campaign to fix its food safety problem looks more like a sham every day. At least three babies are dead, more than 50,000 have been sickened, and an ever-increasing number of manufacturers and products have been implicated—more than 20 companies, a long list of dairy products and shipments to at least 12 countries, though not the United States.

The industrial additive melamine appears to have been purposely added to milk—probably watered-down milk—to falsely boost protein readings. Melamine was similarly found in pet foods last year that killed and sickened dogs and cats across the United States.

When China made arrests in this most recent case, it appeared that the government at least took its responsibilities seriously, even if its preventive measures fell short. But now there are reports that government officials, anxious to polish the country's reputation with seamless Olympic Games, may have ignored early warnings about the melamine-laced milk, which also found its way into ice cream, a popular candy, yogurt and baby foods.

Given the rapid succession of toxic Chinese products within the last 18 months—toys containing lead, contaminated versions of the blood-thinner heparin linked to at least 149 deaths in the United States, poison toothpaste and seafood with dangerous levels of antibiotics—China has run out of excuses, assurances and defenses. As a giant exporter of food and other products, its attitude toward consumer safety is a disgrace and a global health threat.

Newly increased budgets for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will allow somewhat closer inspection of imported foods; at this point, less than 1 percent is inspected, and far less than that is subjected to laboratory testing. But it will take a continuous buildup of the long-neglected FDA before American consumers can feel more confident about their food. In addition, the FDA must stop giving in to Chinese authorities on anti-consumer rules, such as the ban on surprise inspections.

Consumers also have a right to know where their food comes from. New federal laws will require "country of origin" labels on fresh produce and meats, but grocery shoppers still have no way of knowing which countries supplied the ingredients in processed or packaged foods. Foods imported from China have benefited from U.S. laws that keep people in the dark; how can consumers send a message to this rogue food-producing nation if they don't know they're eating its food?

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Gilchrest unloads on know-nothing pols—and the rest of us

By MARC FISHER
The Washington Post

Fisher is a columnist for The Washington Post.

Wayne Gilchrest, the nine-term Republican congressman from Maryland, has had it, and he's ready to talk.

He's had it with his own party, which he says "has become more narrow, more self-serving, more centered around `I want, I want, I want.' " He's finished with his party's presidential candidate, John McCain, who Gilchrest says "recites memorized pieces of information in a narrow way, whereas Barack Obama is constantly evaluating information, using his judgment. One guy just recites what's in front of him, and the other has initiative and reason and prudence and wisdom."

Gilchrest, a moderate who was defeated by a conservative challenger in February's primary, hit the boiling point after Monday's House vote rejecting the big financial bailout package. After much struggle and study, Gilchrest voted for the bailout; what appalls him about his many colleagues who went the other way was that they appeared to do so based neither on a close examination of the issues nor on principle, but rather with a finger to the wind and an eye on the e-mail inbox.

The congressman, whose strongly Republican district stretches from the Pennsylvania line to the border with Virginia, tells me that he's had it with colleagues who "don't understand the issues, who not only don't read the Financial Times, they have never heard of the Financial Times."

Gilchrest isn't done. "We're in this bad place as a country because of the evangelicals, the neocons, the nasty, bitter and mean ... very clever ideological groups that use money, technology, fear and bigotry to lead people around," he says. "Voting according to your knowledge and experience—that's out the window. Competence and prudence? Forget it."

■ ■ ■ ■

Before you start cheering on the congressman who finally let loose, his frustration has one more target: Us.

"We've become a country that sits down in front of the boob tube and listens to people shouting about freedom, but now people equate freedom not with the acquisition of knowledge but with comfort," Gilchrest says. " `Give me my flat-screen TV, the gas-guzzling car, the goods made in China.' The whole concept of freedom has become the idea of comfort, with a complete lack of responsibility."

So, yes, Gilchrest argues, the Wall Street fat cats and greed heads brought us this economic crisis, but their flimsy financial structures grew out of our collective hunger for stuff we cannot afford. "Maybe living in luxury diminishes the intellect," he says.

Still cheering?

I am. To be sure, Gilchrest's outburst might not meet the definition of a profile in courage. After all, Gilchrest didn't talk like this while he still had a chance to win reelection. And his endorsement of Democrat Frank Kratovil in the race to succeed him could be perceived as less than purely disinterested. But his straight talk is no mere spewing of post-defeat bitterness.

■ ■ ■ ■

Gilchrest, who was wounded in combat in Vietnam, where he served as a Marine, voted for the Iraq war but came to believe that the Bush administration had bungled it. Gilchrest favors abortion rights and pushed for faster action on climate change, positions that led conservative Republicans to target him this year.

Gilchrest is on his way out, but the Republican Party, long in decline in suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia, is now in free fall in this region.

Long-serving members of Congress and the state legislatures are not only leaving office but also blasting their party on the way out. Just a few years after running his party's national congressional campaign effort, Rep. Tom Davis of suburban Fairfax County, Va., is leaving Congress embittered by the Republicans' hard-right positions and frustrated that there appears to be no home for moderates who might appeal to suburban voters.

Virginia's GOP "gave me the middle finger," Davis said after party leaders maneuvered to hand its nomination for the retiring John Warner's U.S. Senate seat to former Gov. Jim Gilmore, rather than allow a primary between the hard-right Gilmore and the moderate Davis. "Anybody who compromises, you go back to your party base and you're an apostate. You're squishy. You're weak."

Two of Virginia's longest-serving GOP leaders, Sen. John Chich-

See GILCHREST on next page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Give me liberty, and give me death

By P.J. O'ROURKE
Special to the Los Angeles Times

P.J. O'Rourke is a correspondent for the Weekly Standard *and the* Atlantic*. A longer version of this article is in Search magazine: searchmagazine.org.*

I looked death in the face. All right, I didn't. I glimpsed him in a crowd. I've been diagnosed with cancer, of a very treatable kind. I'm told I have a 95 percent chance of survival. Come to think of it—as a drinking, smoking, saturated-fat hound—my chance of survival has been improved by cancer.

I still cursed God, as we all do when we get bad news and pain. Not even the most faith-impaired among us shouts: "Damn quantum mechanics!" "Damn organic chemistry!" "Damn chaos and coincidence!"

I believe in God. God created the world. Obviously pain had to be included in God's plan. Otherwise we'd never learn that our actions have consequences. Our cave-person ancestors, finding fire warm, would conclude that curling up to sleep in the middle of the flames would be even warmer. Cave bears would dine on roast ancestor, and we'd never get any bad news and pain because we wouldn't be here.

But God, Sir, in Your manner of teaching us about life's consequential nature, isn't death a bit ... um ... extreme, pedagogically speaking? I know the lesson that we're studying is difficult. But dying is more homework than I was counting on. Also, it kind of messes up my vacation planning. Can we talk after class? Maybe if I did something for extra credit?

Why can't death—if we must have it—be always glorious, as in "The Iliad"? Of course death continues to be so, sometimes, with heroes in Fallujah and Kandahar. But nowadays, death more often comes drooling on the toilet seat in the nursing home, or bleeding under the crushed roof of a teen-driven SUV, or breathless in a deluxe hotel suite filled with empty drug bottles and a minor public figure whose celebrity expiration date has passed.

I have, of all the inglorious things, a malignant hemorrhoid. What color bracelet does one wear for that? And where does one wear it? And what slogan is apropos? Perhaps that slogan can be sewn in needlepoint around the ruffle on a cover for my embarrassing little doughnut buttocks pillow.

Furthermore, I am a logical, sensible, pragmatic Republican, and my diagnosis came just weeks after Teddy Kennedy's. That he should have cancer of the brain, and I should have cancer of the ass ... well, I'll say a rosary for him and hope he has a laugh at me. After all, what would I do, ask God for a more dignified cancer? Pancreatic? Liver? Lung?

Which brings me to the nature of my prayers. They are, like most prayers from most people, abject self-pleadings. However, I can't be the only person who feels like a jerk saying, "Please cure me, God. I'm underinsured. I have three little children. And I have three dogs, two of which will miss me. And my wife will cry and mourn and be inconsolable and have to get a job. P.S. Our mortgage is subprime."

God knows this stuff. He's God. He's all-knowing. What am I telling him, really? "Gosh, you sure are a good God. Good—you own it. Plus you're infinitely wise, infinitely merciful, but ... look, everybody makes mistakes. A little cancer of the behind, it's not a big mistake. Not something that's going on your personal record. There's no reason it can't be, well ... reversed, is there?"

No doubt death is one of those mysterious ways in which God famously works. Except, on consideration, death isn't mysterious. Do we really want everyone to be around forever? I'm thinking about my own family, specifically a certain stepfather I had as a kid. Sayonara, you s.o.b.

Napoleon was doubtless a great man in his time—at least the French think so. But do we want even Napoleon extant in perpetuity? Do we want him always escaping from island exiles, raising fanatically loyal troops of soldiers, invading Russia and burning Moscow?

Well, at the moment, considering Putin et al., maybe we do want that. But, century after century, it would get old. And what with Genghis Khan coming from the other direction all the time and Alexander the Great clashing with a Persia that is developing nuclear weapons and Roman legions destabilizing already precarious Israeli-Palestinian relations—things would be a mess.

Then there's the matter of our debt to death for life as we know it. I believe in God. I also believe in evolution. If death weren't around to "finalize" the Darwinian process, we'd all still be amoebas. We'd eat by surrounding pizzas with our belly flab and have sex by lying on railroad tracks waiting for a train to split us into significant others.

I consider evolution to be more than a scientific theory. I think it's a call to God. God created a free universe. He could have created any kind of universe he wanted. But a universe without freedom would have been static and meaningless—the taxpayer-funded-art-in-public-places universe.

Rather, God created a universe full of cosmic whatchmajiggers and subatomic whosits free to interact. And interact they did, becoming matter and organic matter and organic matter that replicated itself and life. And that life was completely free, as amoral as my cancer cells.

Life forms could exercise freedom to an idiotic extent, growing uncontrolled, thoughtless and greedy to the point that they killed the source of their own fool existence. But, with the help of death, matter began to learn right from wrong—how to save itself and its ilk, how to nurture, how to love (or, anyway, how to build a Facebook page), and how to know God and his rules.

Death is so important that God visited death upon his own son, thereby helping us learn right from wrong well enough that we may escape death forever and live eternally in God's grace. (Although this option is not usually open to reporters.)

I'm not promising that the pope will back me up about all of the above. But it's the best I can do by my poor lights about the subject of mortality and free will.

Thus, the next time I glimpse death ... well, I'm not going over and introducing myself. I'm not giving the grim reaper fist daps. But I'll remind myself to try, at least, to thank God for death. And then I'll thank God, with all my heart, for whiskey.

How risk models failed Wall St. and Washington

By JAMES G. RICKARDS
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Crooked mortgage brokers, greedy investment bankers, oblivious rating agencies and gullible investors have all been faulted in the financial crisis, and there is bipartisan agreement that regulators were asleep at the switch. It's all well and good to call for substantial new oversight. But if regulators were oblivious to the danger, the question is why.

In the case of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the answer seems easy: Their massive lobbying machines thwarted every legislative attempt at reform. But what about the Fed, the Treasury and the Securities and Exchange Commission, agencies that are not above politics but are known for their professionalism and expertise? Surely they had the capability and motivation to avoid a calamity of the type that is occurring. Why did they fail?

Math models

The problem is that Wall Street and regulators relied on complex mathematical models that told financial institutions how much risk they were taking at any given time. Since the 1990s, risk management on Wall Street has been dominated by a model called "value at risk" (VaR). VaR attributes risk factors to every security and aggregates these factors across an entire portfolio, identifying those risks that cancel out. What's left is "net" risk that is then considered in light of historical patterns. The model predicts with 99 percent probability that institutions cannot lose more than a certain amount of money. Institutions compare this "worst case" with their actual capital and, if the amount of capital is greater, sleep soundly at night. Regulators, knowing that the institutions used these models, also slept soundly. As long as capital was greater than the value at risk, institutions were considered sound — and there was no need for hands-on regulation.

Lurking behind the models, however, was a colossal conceptual error: the belief that risk is randomly distributed and that each event has no bearing on the next event in a sequence. This is typically explained with a coin-toss analogy. If you flip a coin and get "heads" and then do it again, the first heads has no bearing on whether the second toss will be heads or tails. It's a common fallacy that if you get three heads in a row, there's a better-than-even chance that the next toss will be tails. That's simply not true. Each toss has a 50-50 chance of being heads or tails.

Bell curve

Such systems are represented in the bell curve, which makes clear that events of the type we have witnessed lately are so statistically improbable as to be practically impossible. This is why markets are taken by surprise when they occur.

But what if markets are not like coin tosses? What if risk is not shaped like a bell curve? What if new events are profoundly affected by what went before?

Both natural and man-made systems are full of the kind of complexity in which minute changes at the start result in divergent and unpredictable outcomes. These systems are sometimes referred to as "chaotic," but that's a misnomer; chaos theory permits an understanding of dynamic processes. Chaotic systems can be steered toward more regular behavior by affecting a small number of variables. But beyond chaos lies complexity that truly is unpredictable and cannot be modeled with even the most powerful computers. Capital markets are an example of such complex dynamic systems.

Think of a mountainside full of snow. A snowflake falls, an avalanche begins and a village is buried. What caused the catastrophe? The value-at-risk crowd focuses on each snowflake and resulting cause and effect. The complexity theorist studies the mountain. The arrangement of snow is a good example of a highly complex set of interdependent relationships; so complex it is impossible to model. If one snowflake did not set off the avalanche, the next one could, or the one after that. But it's not about the snowflakes; it's about the instability of the system. This is why ski patrols throw dynamite down the slopes each day before skiers arrive. They are "regulating" the system so that it does not become unstable.

Extreme events

The more enlightened among the value-at-risk practitioners understand that extreme events occur more frequently than their models predict. So they embellish their models with "fat tails" (upward bends on the wings of the bell curve) and model these tails on historical extremes such as the post-Sept. 11 market reaction. But complex systems are not confined to historical experience. Events of any size are possible, and limited only by the scale of the system itself. Since we have scaled the system to unprecedented size, we should expect catastrophes of unprecedented size as well. We're in the middle of one such catastrophe, and complexity theory says it will get much worse.

Financial systems overall have emergent properties that are not conspicuous in their individual components and that traditional risk management does not account for. When it comes to the markets, the aggregate risk is far greater than the sum of the individual risks; this is something that Long-Term Capital Management did not understand in the 1990s and that Wall Street seems not to comprehend now. As long as Wall Street and regulators keep using the wrong paradigm, there's no hope they will appreciate just how bad things can become. And the new paradigm of risk must be understood if we are to avoid lurching from one bank failure to the next.

The writer was general counsel of Long-Term Capital Management from 1994 to 1999. He works for Omnis Inc., a McLean, Va., consultant on national security and capital markets.

GILCHREST

From Page 10

ester of Stafford County and Del. Vince Callahan of Fairfax, left the legislature this year with harsh words for their party—and both have endorsed Democrat Mark Warner in this fall's Senate race.

■ ■ ■ ■

"I'm extremely distressed by the path it's taking," Callahan told me of the GOP in Virginia. "It could end up being a minority debating society. We can't be a party about immigrant-bashing or gay-bashing or any other bashing. We should be a party of fiscal responsibility, which is how I got into it."

This is more than the usual bitterness of politicians who have lost a race for office or been displaced by a new generation. This is a collective cry for help.

"I haven't stepped away from my party," Gilchrest says. "The party has stepped away from Eisenhower and Goldwater and Nixon and Ford and even Ronald Reagan. It's been driven away by this anti-government combination of Milton Friedman and Jerry Falwell."

In a republic, leaders must occasionally tell the people that they are wrong, just as the people sometimes have to throw the bums out. Last week, we watched as two presidential candidates danced away from any serious discussion about pain or responsibility in this financial crisis. We have no Lincoln, no FDR. But at least we have a few smaller voices on their way out the door, liberated to tell some truths.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers in the morning, then isolated showers in the afternoon and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

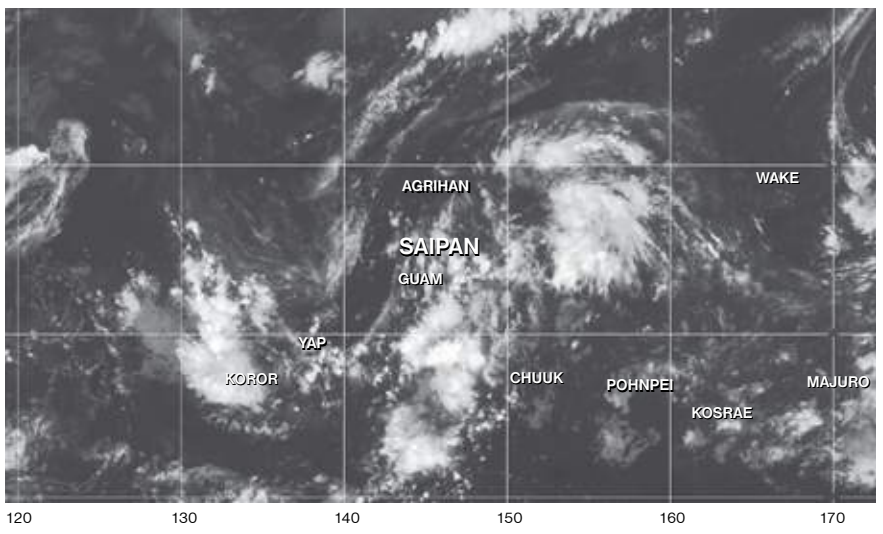
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼73
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲65	▼54
Beijing	Rain	▲72	▼59
Hong Kong	Rain	▲88	▼77
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼74
London	Showers	▲55	▼48
Los Angeles	Rain	▲70	▼58
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲64	▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼76
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼50
Osaka	Rain	▲76	▼65
Paris	Cloudy	▲52	▼47
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲73	▼59
Rome	Cloudy	▲60	▼43
Salem	Rain	▲63	▼47
San Francisco	Rain	▲66	▼55
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼57
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲77	▼62
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲71	▼54

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from 11N130E to a weak circulation near 10N137E then northeastward to near 14N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms around Palau and west of Yap are in an area from 15N131E to 12N136E to 6N135E to 8N131E back to 15N131E. An upper-level low northwest of Guam at 16N143E along with low-level convergence associated with the monsoon trough is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in two areas. One area is from the Marianas southward and bounded by a line from 16N145E to 14N153E to 2N147E to 2N143E back to 16N145E. Another area is northeast of the Marianas within an area from 21N149E to 20N159E to 14N158E to 13N154E back to 21N149E. Another upper-level low is northeast of Wake at 24N175E with widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in an area from 25N176E to 25N180 to 16N174E to 20N170E back to 25N176E. Trade-wind convergence is producing widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from near Kosrae eastward across the Marshall Islands within an area from 5N164E to 9N174E to 2N180E to 2N173E back to 5N164E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:30AM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
11:30AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
4:55PM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
9:34PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07AM	6:04 PM
Sunday	6:07AM	6:03 PM
Monday	6:07AM	6:03 PM
Tuesday	6:07AM	6:02 PM
Wednesday	6:08AM	6:01 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:01AM	9:22PM
Sunday	10:54AM	10:11PM
Monday	11:54AM	11:03PM
Tuesday	12:33PM	11:56PM
Wednesday	1:19PM	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Saipan-Shanghai

FM 844	3:15am	5:55am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843	7:50pm	2:15am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

OCTOBER 04, 1999

Teno: It's unfair
Calling the deal "unfair," Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said he would favor deferring release of close to $1 million in federal funds to reimburse the island government the costs incurred from hosting more than 600 illegal Chinese immigrants on Tinian until contentious issues are resolved. He said Washington has imposed conditions that would forbid the Commonwealth from spending the money the way it wants, as he noted that there were no restrictions when local resources were used by federal authorities for the Tinian operations.

TCGCC steps in to help Tinian shipping
In a move to save the cash-strapped Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc. from losing its two vessels, the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission has issued a resolution allowing its parent company, Hong Kong Entertainment Ltd., to execute a leasehold mortgage on the real estate property where its hotel casino is situated in favor of the Clerk of Court of the U.S. District Court. Hong Kong Entertainment owns a lease on some 125,457 square meters of lot now occupied by Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino on the island-municipality of Tinian.

Senate to declare Tinian seat vacant
A resolution is expected to be adopted by the Senate urging the Board of Elections to hold special polls on Tinian after former Sen. Herman M. Manglona resigned in the wake of his conviction on bribery charges in federal court. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said he will file the resolution during a session to be held likely this week to resolve immediately the fate of the seat left vacant with Manglona's departure.

OCTOBER 04, 2000

Manila liaison office shuts down for good
The CNMI government has shut down its liaison office in Manila after six years of operation, leaving the processing of Filipino workers seeking employment here at the hands of the Philippine government. Jose I. DeLeon Guerrero, special assistant for administration, said the closure took effect on Sept. 30, the last day of FY 2000. He traveled to the RP capital last week to oversee dispensing of its assets.

Remittances post 13% growth in 1st half
The volume of remittance transactions made by over 40,000 nonresident workers in the Northern Marianas registered a significant growth in the first semester of 2000 compared with year ago figures. Records obtained from the commerce department's Banking Division disclosed a 13-percent increase in remittances during the period covering the first six months of the year at $33.962 million from last year's $29.392 million.

Saipan has one of the lowest crime rate, survey claims
In an effort to allay fears regarding safety of the islands, CNMI authorities have beefed up security of tourists and visitors through programs aimed to combat crimes here, according to the administration. A statement from the Public Information Office also trumpeted findings of a recent survey conducted by a Japanese publication that showed Saipan as one of the highest-ranked destinations in terms of safety.

OCTOBER 04, 2001

CPA rolls back seaport fees
The Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday suspended the implementation of the new seaport rates, following concerns raised by major importers in light of the slowdown in shipping-related activities. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the board voted to suspend the new seaport rates for the next six months. Rates implemented on October 1 are retroactive, he added.

NMI losing 804 visitors a day
The Northern Marianas has been losing an average of 804 visitors everyday, or a daily average decline of 49 percent, since the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. Since the national air travel suspension was lifted on September 15 up until September 30, the CNMI lost 15,276 visitors than what the islands recorded on the average before the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Business

Wave of House converts jump aboard bailout bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—A wave of House converts jumped aboard the $700 billion financial industry bailout Thursday on the eve of a make-or-break second vote, as lawmakers responded to an awakening among voters to the pain ahead of them if stability isn't restored to the tottering economy.

Black lawmakers said personal calls from Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama helped switch them from "no" to "yes." Republicans and Democrats alike said appeals from credit-starved small businessmen and the Senate's addition of $110 billion in tax breaks had persuaded them to drop their opposition.

"I hate it," but "inaction to me is a greater danger to our country than this bill," said GOP Rep. Zach Wamp of Tennessee, one of the 133 House Republicans who joined 95 Democrats in rejecting the measure Monday, sending the stock market plummeting.

Still, the outcome was far from assured. Vote-counters in both parties planned to huddle first thing Friday morning to compare notes on coming up with the dozen or so supporters needed to reverse the stunning defeat.

Lawmakers were agonizing as they decided whether to change course and back the largest government intervention in markets since the Great Depression. "I'm trying desperately to get to 'yes,'" said Rep. Carol Shea-Porter, D-N.H.

Fears about an economic downturn sent the Dow Jones industrials down nearly 350 points Thursday, three days after Monday's historic 778-point drop. The Federal Reserve reported record emergency lending to banks and investment firms, fresh evidence of the credit troubles squeezing the country

Obama and his Republican rival, John McCain, phoned reluctant lawmakers for their help. McCain, in Denver, predicted the bill would pass the House.

Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., told a closed-door meeting of House Democrats that he will support the bill after speaking with Obama about it. Other wavering lawmakers said Obama's entreaties had swayed them as well.

Congressional leaders worked over wayward colleagues wherever they could find them.

Rep. Steny Hoyer, the second-ranking House Democrat, said there was a "good prospect" of approving the measure but stopped short of predicting passage—or even promising a vote. Nonetheless, a vote was expected on Friday.

Asian stocks fall on fears of a widening slowdown

SINGAPORE (AP)—Asian markets fell Friday in the wake of another plunge on Wall Street amid doubts that Washington's bank bailout plan—even if it passes—will prevent a recession in the U.S. and a slump around the world.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 stock average was down 1.6 percent at 10,982, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng index slid 2.3 percent to 17,790.

Virtually all Asian markets were in the red—Australia, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia and Thailand.

The outcome of a vote later Friday in the U.S. House of Representatives on the $700 billion bank rescue plan is still uncertain. The Senate overwhelmingly approved a revised version of the bill Wednesday after the House rejected the original plan on Monday.

But even if the package is approved, investors in Asia are pessimistic about the outlook for the U.S. economy—a vital export market—and realize that cleaning up the bad debt mess at the core of the global credit crisis will take a long time.

"The bailout could move us toward a solution, but there are many unresolved issues," said Tim Rocks, Asia strategist at Macquarie Securities in Hong Kong. "We're starting to see the first evidence that the U.S. economy is starting to suffer, and this will have an impact on Asia exports through next year."

Wall Street took a dive Thursday as numbers from the U.S. Labor Department showed that initial claims for jobless benefits increased by 1,000 to a seasonally adjusted 497,000, a seven-year high and significantly above analysts' estimates of 475,000.

Also, the Commerce Department said that U.S. factory orders in August dropped 4 percent compared to July, a much steeper decline than the 2.5 percent drop analysts expected and the biggest setback since a 4.8 percent plunge in October 2006.

Japanese automakers sank for a second day Friday after the industry reported September sales plunged in the U.S.—their biggest overseas market.

Shares of Toyota Motor Corp. fell 6.3 percent after the world's second-biggest carmaker said Wednesday that U.S. sales fell 32 percent. Nissan Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co., which also reported a large drop in U.S. sales, both fell for a second day.

Nation

Palin stands her ground in VP debate with Biden

AMERICA VOTES

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Under intense scrutiny, Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin stood her ground Thursday night against a vastly more experienced Joe Biden, debating the economy, energy and global warming, then challenging him on Iraq, "especially with your son in the National Guard."

The Alaska governor also noted that Biden had once said Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama wasn't ready to be commander in chief, "and I know again that you opposed the move that he made to try to cut off funding for the troops and I respect you for that."

Biden responded that John McCain, too, had voted against funding, and said the Republican presidential candidate had been "dead wrong on the fundamental issues relating to the conduct of the war."

The clash over Iraq was the most personal, and pointed, of the only vice presidential debate of the campaign, one in which Palin repeatedly cast herself as a non-Washington politician and part of a "team of mavericks" ready to bring change to a country demanding it.

"Maverick he is not on the important, critical issues," Biden shot back, referring to McCain. And he said Obama was the true candidate of change.

AP

Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., left, and Republican vice presidential candidate Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin shake hands after the vice presidential debate at Washington University in St. Louis, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008.

Palin, governor of her state for less than two years, faced enormous challenges as she walked onto the debate stage at Washington University. After five weeks as McCain's ticket-mate, her poll ratings have begun dropping as even some conservatives question her readiness for high public office.

Her solo campaign events are few, and she has drawn ridicule for some of her answers in the few interviews she has granted—including her claim that Alaska's proximity to Russia gives her an insight into foreign policy.

From the opening moments of the debate, Democrat Biden sought to make McCain out as a straight-ahead successor to an unpopular President Bush. "He voted four out of five times for George Bush's budget, which put us a half-trillion dollars in debt and over $4 trillion in debt since he got here," Biden said of McCain.

McCain struggles to explain bailout support

DENVER (AP)—Republican presidential candidate John McCain, who insists he would veto any pork barrel bills to come across his desk as president, is struggling to explain his vote for the revised financial bailout plan that contained a number of those pet projects.

In an interview on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program Thursday, McCain said the extra sweeteners added to the financial bailout bill that passed Wednesday night in the Senate are "just the way the system is working in Washington, and the reason why it's got to be fixed and it's got to be changed."

McCain has made a career of railing against the concept of pork barrel projects, which are special funding requests that lawmakers tuck into larger bills, to benefit their own districts or states. He even agreed with his interviewer that those types of projects are contributing to the nation's financial crisis, and said "this bill is putting us on the brink of disaster."

Later in the day, he predicted the resurrected financial bailout bill will pass the House on its second try, but said the $700 billion rescue plan is still just a bandage and not a cure.

On the eve of the make-or-break second vote for the bailout package, McCain spoke to several hundred women voters at a town hall meeting in Denver. The night before, he voted for the revised bailout in the Senate.

"It's like a tourniquet—it will stop the bleeding, then we have to set about fixing the way we do business in Washington, D.C.," he said.

As President Bush and congressional leaders lobbied hard for the bill's passage on Thursday, McCain was also making calls to try and win over skeptics, his campaign said.

But he surprised some by not speaking about it on the floor of the Senate as the vote went down Wednesday; just a week earlier he announced he was suspending his campaign to rush to Washington to deal with the financial crisis.

The economy was a top concern for many in the audience at his town hall meeting Thursday evening. Questioners, all of them women, asked him about affording college, health care, jobs and keeping small businesses afloat.

Searchers find Fossett's plane and human remains

AP

Wreckage from a plane belonging to Steve Fossett is seen Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2008 in a handout photo released by the Mono County Sheriff's Search & Rescue.

MAMMOTH LAKES, Calif. (AP)—More than a year after the mysterious disappearance of millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, searchers found the wreckage of his plane in the rugged Sierra Nevada, along with enough remains for DNA testing.

A small piece of bone was found amid a field of debris 400 feet long and 150 feet wide in a steep section of the mountain range, the National Transportation Safety Board said at a news conference Thursday. Some personal effects also were found at the site.

Officials conflicted on whether they had confirmed the remains were human.

"We don't know if it's human. It certainly could be," Madera County Sheriff John Anderson said late Thursday, hours after the leader of the NTSB had said the remains were those of a person. "I refuse to speculate."

Asked about the sheriff's assessment of the physical evidence, NTSB spokesman Terry Wiliams reaffirmed NTSB acting Chairman Mark Rosenker's earlier statement.

"We stick by that. It's human remains," said Williams, who declined to say how the NTSB had arrived at that conclusion.

Railroad regulators issue emergency cell phone ban

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Federal regulators issued an emergency order Thursday banning use of cell phones and other electronic devices by rail workers, a day after investigators said a commuter-train engineer was text messaging moments before a deadly crash last month.

Sanchez

Violators could be fined or removed from their jobs under the Federal Railroad Administration rule, which comes as the National Transportation Safety Board investigates why Metrolink engineer Robert Sanchez ran through a red light and into a freight train, killing 25 people.

Preliminary evidence released Wednesday by the NTSB on the timing of the messages appears to rule out that he was unconscious at the time and could show that Sanchez, who was among the dead, was distracted at the time of the crash, experts said.

"They know what's probable, that he was distracted while sending a text message or getting ready to send one," said Ron Schleede, who retired from the NTSB after 28 years as an accident investigator. "He was not incapacitated, but he was also not alert and paying attention."

NTSB investigators have found no indication of mechanical error, signal malfunction or problems with the track. While the NTSB has not made a finding about the cause of the crash, Metrolink has already said Sanchez went through the stop light.

An NTSB spokeswoman would not comment further Thursday about the investigation, which could take more than a year.

ACROSS THE NATION

NYC mayor: City challenges inspired 3rd-term push

NEW YORK (AP)—Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced Thursday that he's pushing for changes that would allow him to seek a third term leading the nation's largest city, saying he wants to handle unfinished business including the "unprecedented challenges" brought on by the recent financial crisis. "The question for me has become much less about the theoretical and much more about the practical," the one-time proponent of term limits said at a news conference at City Hall. "And so to put it in very practical terms, handling this financial crisis while strengthening the essential services such as education and public safety is a challenge I want to take on for the people of New York." Bloomberg, confirming reports about his plan earlier this week, said he will ask the City Council to change New York's term limits law so he can run next year for another four years in office.

NYPD officer kills himself over Taser episode

NEW YORK (AP)—The man was naked, teetering on a building ledge and jabbing at police with an 8-foot-long fluorescent light bulb as a crowd gathered below. Lt. Michael Pigott responded by ordering an officer to fire a stun gun at the man, who froze and plunged headfirst to his death in a scene captured on amateur video and replayed frequently on the Internet. The officer was remorseful and distraught. He apologized and sought the family's forgiveness. Then he went to his unit's headquarters Thursday morning, his 46th birthday, and fatally shot himself just hours before the family laid the victim to rest. "The lieutenant was deeply distraught and extremely remorseful over the death of Iman Morales in Brooklyn last week," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. "Sadly, his death just compounds the tragedy of the loss of Mr. Morales." The suicide marks another tragic turn in a case that has raised questions about the use of Tasers by the nation's largest police force.

WTC owners rewrite expectations at ground zero

NEW YORK (AP)—The owners of the World Trade Center site announced a delay in the completion of a multibillion-dollar transit hub Thursday but pledged to open a nearly finished Sept. 11 memorial by the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. They set no firm schedule for the completion of the entire site, which includes four office towers and a performing arts center. The report also said the 1,776-foot Freedom Tower skyscraper has been delayed by up to a year, meaning the signature project of the site won't open until at least 2013. In a 70-page report on ground zero's tortuous rebuilding process, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said the elaborate rail hub will cost $3.2 billion, $700 million more than planned, and should open in 2014, five years after the original projected completion date.

Asia

Asia still finding tainted Chinese milk powder

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—A Thai dairy company said Thursday it will return 122 tons of milk powder imported from China over contamination fears, as some Asian countries tried to respond carefully to the widening scandal involving a major trading partner.

Thailand's Dutch Mill Group made the announcement even though the country's food inspection authorities said they had not found dangerous amounts of the industrial chemical melamine in any foods tested.

Taiwan and Laos, meanwhile, announced measures to stop the sale of some milk products, after tests in the two countries found melamine in several brands of milk powder originating from China.

Milk containing melamine has been blamed for killing four Chinese babies and sickening more than 54,000 others, sparking global concerns about food products made with Chinese milk or milk powder.

Thailand's Food and Drug Administration has been impounding newly imported milk powder from China at ports around the country, pending laboratory analysis. The agency said it is testing nearly 100 food items.

Earlier this week, the agency found small traces of melamine in milk powder imported from China by Dutch Mill, but the levels were legally acceptable for human consumption, Deputy Secretary-General Manit Arunakoon said.

The agency also cleared samples of Dutch Mill's pasteurized milk and yoghurt products.

But the company said it will return 122 tons of newly imported powdered milk even though none of it had been found dangerous so far.

"We want to return it to make sure our products are safe for our customers," company president Thirayuth Chaisawangwong said. He said test results were expected by week's end "but we don't want to take any risk even if the test is negative."

Dutch Mills already stopped using Chinese powdered milk as raw material for producing pasteurized milk products, he added.

The expanding scandal has prompted countries with trade ties to China to move gingerly.

Thailand's public health minister, Chalerm Yoobamrung, warned Wednesday that officials should be prudent about what they say because they could affect trade with the Asian giant.

"I did not mean that I am afraid of China, but we have to be concerned about our trade ties," Chalerm said later.

Official Thai action so far seems in line with that of other Asian nations engaging in heavy trade with China.

US nuclear envoy wrapping up talks with NKorea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The chief U.S. nuclear envoy wrapped up negotiations with North Korea on Thursday after spending an extra day in the communist nation to try to persuade Pyongyang to resume dismantling its nuclear program.

Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill spent the day in North Korea meeting with his North Korean counterpart, Kim Kye Gwan, at the reclusive nation's invitation, U.S. officials said. He was expected to return to South Korea on Friday.

"Now we'll see what these discussions yield," U.S. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said in Washington on Thursday without providing details.

North Korea began disabling a nuclear reprocessing plant in Yongbyon—but then abruptly stopped in mid-August, citing Washington's refusal to remove it from a terrorism blacklist. The U.S. maintains that the agreement required North Korea to submit to a thorough verification of its nuclear accounting—a demand Pyongyang rejected.

North Korea's defiance comes amid concerns about authoritarian leader Kim Jong Il's health. Kim, 66, has not been seen in public since he reportedly suffered a stroke in August.

Hill phoned Thursday from Pyongyang to say he was staying in North Korea for another day but did not provide any details about his discussions due to concerns about the security of communications, McCormack said in Washington.

He said Hill did not present Pyongyang with any proposals for substantive changes to the verification scheme, but rather suggestions on how the "choreography" or timing of the process could be adjusted, perhaps by involving North Korea's main ally, China.

"There have been various plans in the past where instruments, declarations, et cetera, have been deposited with Beijing and then shared subsequently with the other five parties, while other commitments from the five parties move forward," McCormack said.

However, it was unclear Friday how Pyongyang reacted to the face-saving measure designed to salvage the disarmament pact.

"The ball is really in the North Koreans' court," McCormack reiterated.

The two Koreas, meanwhile, held their first official talks in eight months on Thursday inside the DMZ.

India latest to ban smoking in public places

NEW DELHI (AP)—India banned smoking in public places on Thursday, leaving public health officials with a much tougher task: get the nation's estimated 120 million smokers to stub out their cigarettes.

As more countries have clamped down on smoking in recent years, Indians have freely puffed away at playgrounds, railway stations, sidewalk cafes and even hospitals. No more, and a violator will get a $5 fine.

For years, anti-smoking laws in this nation of nearly 1.2 billion people have been widely ignored. And tobacco companies have fought the government to keep warnings off boxes.

Thursday's ban was the government's second try in four years and came on the birthday of India's independence leader, Mohandas Gandhi, who did not smoke or drink.

Officials hope an extensive anti-smoking campaign and tighter enforcement will make the ban successful, but the country's health minister, Anubamani Ramadoss, knows getting people to quit won't happen overnight.

"This is going to be a continuous process," he said.

Smoking bans have taken Europe and the U.S. by storm in recent years, with most European countries and several American cities prohibiting or severely limiting smoking in a host of public places, including bars, restaurants and cafes.

But bans are rarer in Asia, though China, home to nearly a third of the world's smokers, has at least partially joined the campaign.

Beijing banned smoking in most public places, including at all Olympic venues, in May. Hotels, restaurants and bars must provide smoking and nonsmoking areas.

Pakistan official says country at war

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A senior Pakistani official says the government is fighting a war that will continue until the country is free of terrorism.

Interior Ministry chief Rehman Malik said in remarks broadcast Friday that previous Pakistani military campaigns against Islamic militants were halted too soon.

He said the current government will take operations to their "logical conclusion" and that "this war will continue until we make Pakistan terrorism-free."

Troops are battling militants in at least three regions and extremists have mounted a wave of suicide bombings.

The escalating violence this week prompted the United Nations and foreign diplomatic missions here to increase their security precautions.

World

AP

U.S. Army soldiers from Ironhawk Troop, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment perform first aid on an Iraqi Army soldier with a gunshot wound in Mosul, 360 kilometers (225 miles) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008.

Suicide attackers strike Shiite mosques, kill 24

BAGHDAD (AP)—Suicide bombers struck two Shiite mosques in Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 24 people and wounding dozens during celebrations marking the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

To the north, suspected Shiite militiamen gunned down six members of a Sunni family, including women and children, police reported.

Those attacks occurred four days after a series of explosions killed 32 people and wounded nearly 100 in Shiite areas of Baghdad, raising fears that al-Qaida in Iraq is trying to provoke Sunni-Shiite reprisal killings now that the last of the American "surge" troops have left the country.

In the deadliest attack, a suicide car bomber detonated his explosives about 20 yards from a mosque in Zafaraniyah in southeastern Baghdad. The blast killed 14 people, including three Iraqi soldiers, and wounded 28, police said.

The death toll would likelier have been higher, but Iraqi soldiers prevented the attacker from driving closer to the mosque, police said.

"Pools of blood and the smell of burned flesh were everywhere and I saw a man of about 70 bleeding and lying on the ground," said Ammar Hashim, 25, whose brother was also wounded by broken glass in his shop.

In the other attack in the capital, a suicide bomber who appeared to be in his late teens detonated his explosive belt as worshippers were leaving the Rasoul mosque in the eastern New Baghdad district.

Ten people died and 24 were wounded, police and officials at al-Kindi and Ibn al-Nasif hospitals said. The dead included a guard who blocked the attacker from entering the mosque, police said.

Somali pirates say they will fight commando raid

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somali pirates on a hijacked cargo ship holding battle tanks and hostages said Thursday that they were ready to battle any commando-style rescue attempt.

The warning came a day after the Somali government gave foreign powers a blank check for using force against the pirates, while U.S. warships continued to circle nearby and a Russian frigate headed toward the standoff.

"Anyone who tries to attack us or deceive us will face bad repercussions," the pirates' spokesman, Sugule Ali, told The Associated Press by satellite telephone from the Ukrainian ship MV Faina.

Ali sounded calm and relaxed despite being surrounded by a half dozen U.S. Navy vessels and buzzed by American helicopters.

Navy officials decline to comment on the possible use of force, but they warn the pirates against harming the 20 crew members or trying to unload the ship's cargo of 33 Soviet-designed T-72 tanks and other weapons. They make clear they won't allow the arms to fall into the hands of an al-Qaida-linked Islamic movement that is battling Somalia's government.

Ali said the pirates planned to release the ship with crew and cargo intact after receiving the $20 million ransom they have demanded. They seized it Sept. 25 and are no anchored off the coast of central Somalia.

"We have nothing to do with insurgents or terrorist organizations. We only need money," he said. "We would never reduce the ransom."

WORLD BRIEFS

US to build new embassy in suburban London

LONDON (AP)—The United States announced plans Thursday to leave its landmark embassy in central London's tony Mayfair district and build a safer facility in a far less fashionable suburb south of the River Thames. The move, which will end a 200-year U.S. association with London's Grosvenor Square, is part of American efforts to secure diplomatic staff in compounds—a push that began in earnest after deadly al-Qaida bombings at two U.S. embassies in East Africa a decade ago. Over the last decade, U.S. diplomatic outposts have been transformed from showcases for American openness to heavily defended fortresses. Around the world from Athens to Abidjan, embassies built in a spirit of with colonial elegance or post-war openness have been transformed with fences, blast walls and other barriers against attack.

Britain planned taped messages after nuclear war

LONDON (AP)—The doomsday script was never used by the British Broadcasting Corp., but decades later the message remains haunting. "This is the wartime broadcasting service," the announcement begins. "This country has been attacked with nuclear weapons." The decades-old statement continues: Communications have been severely disrupted, and the number of casualties and the extent of the damage are not yet known. The announcer promises to bring further information as soon as possible and tells listeners to stay tuned. A draft of the message was released by the National Archives on Friday, along with letters between government bureaucrats and BBC executives offering a rare glimpse at a Cold War secret plan to deal with a nuclear attack. "This is chilling to read," said Mark Dunton, a contemporary history specialist at the National Archives.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, October 4, 2008

OFW jobs in US 'recession proof'—Andaya

By JOEL GUINTO
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Since their jobs are "recession-proof," Filipino workers in the United States will not be hit hard by a looming recession there, economic officials said Thursday.

The economic crisis in the US will also not significantly reduce the total remittances of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), given the booming Middle East economy, officials said.

"You have to look at their jobs. A lot of Filipinos there in the US, their jobs are, shall we say, recession-proof. They are not withLehman Brothers or AIG," Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. told a news conference at the Palace, referring to American financial institutions worst-hit by the crisis.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ralph Recto said that based on statistics, the sub-prime borrower, or those at higher risk of defaulting on their payments, includes Filipinos, Asians, and African-Americans.

"So yes, there will be an effect. But having said that, you also have a booming Middle East economy and you have many Filipinos in the Middle East who will be sending more remittances in the Philippines," Recto told the same briefing.

Recto said that for 2008, the increase in OFW remittances reached 18 percent, overshooting the projected 10-percent increase.

"There's no reason why we should expect OFW remittances to go down next year as well. It may not have the same 18-percent growth as this year, but still a substantial increase, substantial remittances are still expected next year," he said.

PESO REBOUNDS AP

A Filipino man counts U.S. dollar bills at a money changer in Manila on Thursday Oct. 2, 2008. The peso slightly rebounded against the U.S. dollar, closing at 47 pesos, up from its previous close of 47.05, as pressure eased for the local currency following reports the U.S. Senate has approved the revised bailout plan for the troubled American financial system.

Finding your own greener pasture

By LYNDA C. CORPUZ
MONEYSENSE

Aside from knowing what the current hot jobs, top destinations and opportunities in the overseas employment market are, it is equally important to consider the following factors when looking for your own greener pasture.

Research and paperwork.
You want to make sure your destination of choice welcomes foreign workers, particularly your skill and work experience. Find out about the country where you want to work. Know if you need to secure a working permit or visa, or a residency visa. Contact the nearest embassy.

Scour the Web to give you an idea of the paperwork you will need to complete. Completing papers is time-consuming, and on occasion, nerve-wracking.

What you want to and can do.
Others go abroad and hop from one casual job to another, like bar tending or shop keeping.

Before you jump on that plane, list down all your skills and work experience, and check if your preferred country is looking for foreign workers with your skill set.

Right now, there is a demand for jobs on cruise liners, hotel and food services, construction, education, and healthcare, according to the book "Finding Work Abroad: A step-by-step guide."

Web power.
It is easier to search for overseas jobs through the Internet. Job portals like JobsDB.com, Monster.com, and other similar Web sites post job vacancies and accept resumés. You can also check online editions of newspapers abroad that also post vacancies.

Be cautious, however, of bogus Web sites by illegal recruiters that victimize people by collecting placement fees for non-existent jobs, warns Carlos Canaberal, Philippine Overseas and Employment Administration (POEA) planning and policy division chief. POEA, through its Web site , can also help you check if there are available jobs in the country of your choice.

You can search for jobs according to position, country, and agency as disclosed by licensed recruitment agencies that have had job orders in the last two years. Carlos, however, reminds job seekers: "It's important that an applicant verifies with the agency if the job order is still active or not."

Apart from local employment agencies, you can also contact international recruitment agencies, or those specializing in the jobs you want. If you already have a company in mind in the country of your choice, apply through its Web site, send the necessary requirements, and be prompt in answering e-mails (mostly pertaining to your suitability to work abroad, like if you have a passport and visa).

Additional qualifications.
Getting qualified or gaining additional skills will be handy if you seek employment abroad. For instance, passing TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) is now not only required for non-native applicants at many English-speaking colleges and universities, but even at government agencies and companies, so you might as well take the test.

Alternatively, consider TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), which you could do while waiting for the job you really want.

Active networking.
If you know anyone in your country or city of choice, ask their advice and assistance to get a good picture of living and working there. Expatriate Filipinos are generally helpful, and they generally can help, like in introducing you to employment contacts.

Once you've settled in, be generous also in extending assistance to those who might need your help.

The cost of moving and working abroad.
On top of work-related expenses, factor in the initial outlay you will need for accommodation. On top of sending money back to your family in the Philippines, you should always have an amount reserved for yourself, like for a flight home just in case you realize living and working overseas is not for you after all.

Market rates.
We picked the top three destinations based on the most number of deployments per the POEA's latest available figures (from January 1 to March 31, 2007), and these are Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and North America (Canada and the United States).

Per country, you'll find a sampling of jobs and the average salary.

? LABOR FRONT

Labor's Internet access

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Q: Does the Department of Labor have standard forms available for downloading through the Internet?

A: Labor has adopted electronic regulations designed to foster use of Internet access so that forms may be filed via Labor's website. Most submissions to Labor are standard forms that are available for downloading from its website.

According to the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, Labor's functions with respect to alien workers will be put online using a website the URL of which is www.marianaslabor.net. The purpose of moving various functions online such as submission of applications, notices, complaints, appeals, and other forms—is to make Labor's processes faster, more efficient, and less costly for Labor, employers, and foreign national workers and their representatives.

■■■■

Q: Who are required to use Labor's online functions?

A: The Regulations state that employers of more than 25 employees will be required to use available online functions on and after March 1, 2008. Employers of more than 10 employees will be required to use available online functions on and after July 1, 2009.

Alien workers and their representatives will use the online functions at their option and always will have the option of providing paper copies in person at Labor.

■■■■

Q: What are the things that Labor is providing for access in its website?

A: Labor will provide for access via its website for employers and foreign national workers to revised statutes and regulations, announcements, notices, opinions and orders, and public data from the department.

Labor will also provide for secure access to data pertaining to individual employers or alien workers for purposes of updating, correction, or supplementation of its records.

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DFA defends its record in helping OFWs

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Department of Foreign Affairs defended its record in helping distressed overseas Filipino workers after an online news report came out, quoting a DFA staff as claiming that the agency response to OFW cases has always been reactionary.

"This is not correct. On the contrary, our response is swift, prompt, and decisive. Let the facts speak for themselves," said DFA Undersecretary for Office of Migrant Affairs Esteban Conejos Jr. The report did not name the staff of Conejos who made the claim.

Conejos said the DFA has been providing frontline services as well as policy initiatives to OFWs.

He said that since January 2006, DFA handled 68 death penalty cases, 24 of which have been commuted to life imprisonment. Ten of the workers involved in these cases have been repatriated to the Philippines through the personal intercessions of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Vice President Noli de Castro, and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo.

At present, Conejos' office is monitoring 44 active and potential death penalty cases.

On assistance to nationals, Conejos said that his office was also in the forefront in providing assistance to OFWs caught in emergency situations such as war (Dili, 2006; Lebanon, 2006; Georgia, 2008), labor riots (Kazakhstan 2006), kidnapping incidents (Nigeria and Somalia), and other troubled areas.

"OUMWA (Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Welfare and Affairs) is pleased to report that our OFWs were safely brought home without a single fatality. DFA also provided assistance in the mass repatriation of Filipinos either from the Middle East or Sabah. DFA also extends assistance to 160 victims of human trafficking for the period January to July 2008," Conejos said.

Since 2003, he said, the DFA handled 68,535 cases of assistance to nationals and 5,000 legal assistance cases for OFWs in distress.

MILF's Kato twits military in YouTube video

By NIKKO DIZON
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—A target of a military manhunt for two months, Ameril Ombra Kato of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has appeared in a video posted on YouTube—mocking his pursuers for failing to find him.

Running almost nine minutes, the video was posted on Sept. 30 by a subscriber with the user ID "Bangsamoro08," and has had 201 hits as of yesterday afternoon.

Wearing a cap, Kato looked alert and showed nothing in his appearance to indicate that he had been wounded—as claimed by the military.

The military has said Kato was injured in the armpit during a recent encounter with government forces in Central Mindanao.

Kato's appearance on YouTube, the Internet video sharing site, marked the first time the MILF commander was seen by the public since the military launched an offensive in August to hunt him and fellow MILF commanders Abdullah Macapaar, alias Bravo, and Aleem Sulaiman Pangalian, as well as their followers.

P10-million bounty

The three rebel commanders are wanted for what the military said were atrocities they committed in North Cotabato, Lanao del Norte, and Saranggani provinces after the collapse of the memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain between the government and the MILF, which envisages the establishment of an expanded Moro homeland.

The government has offered a P10-million bounty each for the capture of Kato and Bravo, and another P5 million for the capture of Pangalian.

"It appears to be him (Kato) although he is thinner and darker," Brig. Gen. Jorge Segovia, military spokesperson for the Central Mindanao, said of the video. "He was not too coherent. Maybe he feels the world is crumbling down on him."

Segovia dismissed Kato as a "crazed man."

Kato shrugged off reports about the money for his capture, saying it was nothing more than an indication that the military had run out of tactics to capture him and his followers.

'I am still here'

Kato described the bounty on him as a "pre-modern tactic" that was used even by enemies of Prophet Mohammed in a jihad, or holy war.

"Maybe they are running out of tactics," Kato said in Filipino. "They have tried everything against us. They have resorted to air attacks, used artillery, ground forces with heavy weapons and armory vehicles.

"They have used all that and yet we are still here. Now all they have left is to offer P10 million to people who would be able to kill me, capture me or pinpoint where I am."

Kato also said that the military offensive in Central Mindanao appeared to have been planned by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the government to give them a reason not to push through with the memorandum of agreement.

Mere stunt

Kato said he was also hurt by accusations that he was a terrorist.

Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. scoffed at Kato's YouTube appearance and said that it was a stunt aimed at taunting the military.

He said that Kato should "better surrender" and save his statements before a judge.

"I think he lacks any credibility whatsoever ... and his appearing right now is a taunt to the Armed Forces of the Philippines. It is a taunt to goad us into losing our cool, to make mistakes. We are not biting the bait that he is setting. We know the game that he is playing," Teodoro said.

The video opened with the camera focused on Kato carrying a rifle and wearing a dark, collared shirt with the sleeves rolled up. His eyes were shifty during the interview. Birds could be heard chirping in the background.

Armed men seize 3 boats off Tawi-Tawi

Malabon fishers held hostage

By NANCY C. CARVAJAL, NIKKO DIZON, JULIE ALIPALA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Seventeen Malabon City fishermen on three fishing boats have been held hostage by armed men since dawn Thursday in the high seas off Tawi-Tawi.

Marie Gutierrez, an executive assistant of the Malabon City-based Irma Fishing and Trading, said a company liaison officer was conducting negotiations with Taganak Island Mayor Omar Khan. She refused to name the negotiator "for security reasons."

Gutierrez said at least 10 heavily-armed men on board a speedboat and two motorized "kumpit" (bancas) attacked and seized the fishing boats around 4:10 a.m. on Thursday some 20 nautical miles off Taganak Island in Tawi-Tawi.

Taganak is about 220 nautical miles from Zamboanga City.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Gilberto C. Teodoro Jr. asking the Armed Forces of the Philippines for help in resolving the case, a company representative said the men were "allegedly under Mayor Omar Khan" of Taganak.

But Nelson Victorino, Teodoro's spokesperson, told the Inquirer that the secretary had not yet received the letter.

However, Victorino gave the assurance that Teodoro "would be supportive of any efforts" for the fishermen's release.

In Zamboanga City, Rear Adm. Emilio Marayag Jr., Naval Forces Western Mindanao commander, said the details about the reported hostage-taking incident were still very hazy.

He added, however, they had already been informed that a fishing boat was being held "by certain elements" in Taganak.

Marayag said the owner of the fishing boat had not coordinated with them. "So how could we get clear information?" he added.

'SWITCH TO SOY' AP

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) activists distribute free soy drink to poor residents Thursday Oct. 2, 2008 at downtown Manila, Philippines. PETA claimed the early Christmas gesture was done to urge people to drink instead dairy-free soy milk in the wake of the melanine-tainted dairy products from China.

7 of 16 jail breakers in police custody

By MARICAR CINCO, NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Seven of the 16 inmates who escaped from the Biñan municipal jail on Wednesday are already in police custody, Senior Supt. Charles Calima, chief of staff of the Calabarzon police, said Thursday.

Calima said two of them, Eric Javier and Romano Mano, surrendered to police a few hours after the jailbreak. Another, Ralph Ochoa, who is facing car theft charges, was recaptured in San Pedro town at around 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

Andrew Palacios, Aries Bon, Marlon Pascual and Wilson Esteban also surrendered to authorities on different occasions. Some turned themselves in to local councilors while Bon surrendered to Carmona Mayor Roy Loyola, Calima said.

Wilson Esteban yielded to municipal councilors in Biñan at 12:30 a.m. Thursday, according to Supt. Mafelino Bazar, Biñan police chief.

Negotiations are ongoing between the barangay chair of San Antonio, Biñan, and the relatives of Adolfo Tamael to surrender him.

Reward

In a phone interview, Supt. Norvel Mingoa, Bureau of Jail Management and Penolgy regional director, confirmed the P90,000 reward for any information leading to the whereabouts of the nine prisoners who were still at large.

The decision to give the reward was announced Thursday after Esteban's surrender. "This is to encourage the community to work with the police for the immediate recovery of the inmates," Mingoa said.

3 more miners rescued; one still missing

By TERESA CEROJANO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Rescuers found the bodies of two miners in a flooded gold mine in the northern Philippines on Thursday, following the dramatic rescue a day earlier of three others who had been trapped for nine days. One miner remained missing.

Rescuers applauded and high-fived each other as the survivors were carried out on stretchers Wednesday from two separate locations about 700 feet (200 meters) underground in the mountain township of Itogon, said George Baywong, a Mines and Geosciences Bureau officer supervising rescue efforts.

Some newspapers heralded their rescue as miraculous.

The three were listed in stable condition and undergoing tests in a hospital. Six other survivors were rescued Monday and Tuesday, and the bodies of two who had died were found separately before dawn Thursday, he said.

Four others were found dead in earlier search operations.

One of those rescued, 32-year-old Gilbert Nattem, said he stayed in a dry crevice just big enough for his 5 feet 6 inches (1.71 meter) frame.

"I did nothing but pray and pray," he said from his hospital bed.

Mario Anayasan, 32, who was rescued Wednesday, said he got separated from his brother, Joseph, who remained missing. He was believed to be in a "farther and more dangerous" location in the mine shaft, Baywong said.

In all, nine have been rescued of 16 men who entered the mine during a typhoon Sept. 22 that rapidly flooded the tunnels, officials said.

The miners said they prayed, first in the light from their lanterns, then in the dark when the batteries failed. Their only sustenance was rain water, leading one to try to eat part of his shirt to stave off hunger pangs.

Their attempts to swim to safety were stymied by high, fast-moving water.

"All of us are so happy we made it out alive," said 22-year-old Antonio Pagulayan, speaking Tuesday to The Associated Press by telephone from a hospital bed as he and two other survivors, intravenous drips in their arms, chewed betel nuts while celebrating their rescue with relatives.

The tunnels, dug decades ago in mountainous Benguet province, were abandoned in the 1990s by a gold mining company. The company had posted guards at two entrances to prevent accidents.

The trapped miners—working on their own with no permit—dug a narrow passageway to gain access to the tunnels, Baywong said.

The rescued miners managed to survive by standing on a ledge or seeking refuge in elevated portions of the tunnel where there was enough oxygen to keep them alive.

They survived on dripping rainwater collected in plastic containers.

Activists nabbed as Arroyo speaks at Masskara start

By CARLA GOMEZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BACOLOD CITY—Police arrested five activists who interrupted the speech of President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday by staging a "lightning rally" at the opening of the MassKara Festival at the city plaza.

Members of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and Task Force Mapalad unfurled placards with messages calling for Arroyo's ouster and the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in the 157-hectare Hacienda Abacan in Barangay Guintubhan, Isabela town, Negros Occidental. The hacienda is owned by First Gentleman Miguel Arroyo.

When she was about to speak, Arroyo paused while the protestors were dispersed. She resumed her speech as if nothing happened.

Some police officers and members of the Presidential Security Group grabbed the activists' placards and took them out of the plaza. One PSG member punched a male protester.

Around 500 policemen were deployed for the festival's opening, according to Senior Insp. Luisito Acebuche, Police Station 1 commander and one of the civil-disturbance management group leaders.

Bayan-Negros secretary-general Felipe Gelle Jr. said the protest was not meant to embarrass local officials and festival organizers, but was directed at Ms. Arroyo.

Hermegildo Padilla, Everlito Alguna, Bonifacio Alguna, Noel Estaris Jr. and Gerardo Batalla of the TFM were nabbed and brought to the police station 1. Charges of inciting to sedition, alarm and scandal and illegal assembly will be filed against them, Acebuche said.

He denied that a sixth TFM member, Romeo Pidoy, was arrested as claimed by the group in a written statement.

The TFM said it was just reminding Arroyo of her promise to distribute the land owned by her husband.

MARKET SOARS AP

Traders gesture as they react during trading at the Philippines Stock Exchange Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008 in Manila's financial district of Makati. The market jumped 43.2 points, or 1.7 percent, to 2612.89, as investors bet on U.S. lawmakers' approval of a $700-billion bailout plan.

$$ PERSONAL FINANCE

How safe is my money in the bank?

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money , a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: The current financial crisis in the US has made many people panic there. I have read of the value of Americans' retirement funds going down. Just how safe is my money in Philippine banks? Are we headed for a similar crisis?—Daniel

Answer: The recent events in the United States have certainly affected many economies. Because of the subprime crisis (many real estate loans left unpaid), US banks had to bear the loss, thus affecting their liquidity. And since banks have transactions with other banks, many other financial institutions were affected in other countries.

Some Philippine banks also have an exposure to the US banks in crisis. However, as revealed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Philippine banking system is safe since the local banks' level of exposure to the troubled US banks is just a small percentage of the Philippine banks' total assets.

Aside from this, our local banks and insurance companies follow strict restrictions imposed by governing bodies regarding investment and loans, keeping exposure manageable.

Your money is considered safe in Philippine banks because of the above reasons. But even if a bank fails for some reason, your money is protected all the more if it is kept in bank deposits. This is because peso and foreign currency deposits in bank accounts in the Philippines, from savings to checking to time deposits, are backed by insurance coverage from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC).

The government created PDIC by law in 1963 through Republic Act 3591 to insure bank deposits. In the event that a bank gets closed by the Monetary Board, the governing body of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, depositors will be able to get back their money up to a set amount. In 2004, the maximum deposit insurance coverage was increased to P250,000 per depositor as specified in Republic Act 9302.

In computing the insured deposit, a person's deposit accounts in a closed bank will be added together, adding interest, deducting withholding taxes, unpaid loans and other obligations of the depositor to the closed bank.

Money invested through trust accounts in banks, either through money market placements or participation in unit investment trust funds (UITF), are not covered by the PDIC. Trust products carry with them a certain amount of risk. Because the yield from these investment products is determined by the market, you may have gains or losses. It is possible to gain more than what savings accounts may give you. In the same manner, you may lose a part of your principal also when the markets are down.

When thinking of investing in trust products, study all options carefully. Ask yourself how much risk you are willing to take to let your money grow, then decide on which product(s) to invest in. It may be good to take on some risk, since not taking any will let you miss out on the possible gains you may earn through trust products. If you decide to invest in trust products, just invest for the long term so as to ride out the volatility in the markets.

Another important thing to remember is to diversify. Invest in a number of asset classes to spread out the risk. By also investing in UITFs, you achieve diversification since the fund invests in not just one, but many instruments.

The current financial crisis abroad has spooked some investors, and some of them pulled out their investments locally. By pulling out at this time, investors will not be able to realize the gains that they may have once the market rallies. And banks, since they are stable, do not need to be shaken up.

So our advice is: Stay cool. The crisis will pass. The Philippine banking system is stable. Your money is safe, subject to the usual risks in trust products. Invest for the long term and join the upswing ride when the market rallies.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Prison guard in gunplay

NORTHERN SAMAR—Police detained a prison guard for shooting and killing an inmate in Laoang town in Northern Samar. Rudy Baluyot, 36, died after the guard Manolito Bulan, 44, shot him several times with an Armalite rifle at around 7:15 a.m. on Friday, inside the sub-provincial jail, according to police reports. Bulan said Baluyot tried to attack him with an ice pick and did not heed his warning shot. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

3 towns, 1 city flooded in Nueva Ecija

CABANATUAN CITY—Floodwaters Thursday submerged at least 14 villages in three towns and one city in Nueva Ecija, prompting hundreds of families to seek safe grounds. Flooded were the villages of Pambuan, San Vicente, Sto. Niño, San Nicolas and Bukana in Gapan City; Castellano and Nieves in San Leonardo; Pias, Poblacion Central, Poblacion East and Rio Chico in General Tinio; and three other villages in Gabaldon town. Antonio Nangel, operations manager of the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation System (UPRIIS), said the water came from the Peñaranda and Pampanga rivers, which overflowed due to continuous rains since Wednesday. He said the Pantabangan Dam was still 10 meters from spilling level. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Rare Visayan warty piglet disappears

BACOLOD CITY—It appears that this piglet did not go to market. Conservationists in this city have suffered a setback with the disappearance of a rare and endangered male Visayan warty piglet (Sus cebifrons). The piglet was born on Sept. 17 at the Biodiversity Conservation Center of the Negros Forests and Ecological Foundation—the first of its kind to be born there this year, according to the curator, Dr. Joanne Justo. The animal vanished early on Monday, and an extensive search by the foundation staff has proved fruitless. "It's highly probable he was eaten by a python—pythons being very common in Negros. It is very sad. He was a very sweet little piglet," foundation trustee Robert Harland said on Wednesday. Harland said the keeper at the center discovered the piglet's disappearance after noting that its mother, Juana, was agitated. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Gunfire marks Eid'l Fitr

COTABATO CITY—Bursts of gunfire Thursday marked Eid'l Fitr, the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, despite appeals to revelers by Chief Supt. Benzali Jabarani, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police director, and the Darul Ifta (House of Opinion). Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the military's 6th Infantry Division, said stray bullets pierced the roofs of some houses but no casualties had been reported so far. Hundreds of Muslims joined the community prayer held at the Cotabato City Pilot Elementary School and on the grounds of City Hall. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Cops seize 'hot' lumber

LAGUNA—Police seized some 18,000 board feet of undocumented coconut lumber in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, on Monday. Senior Supt. Manolito Labador, provincial police director, said the truck driver failed to present documents for the cargo when he was stopped in Barangay Patimbao. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Fire razes bank

ROXAS CITY—A fire leveled a branch of Green Bank on Arnaldo Boulevard in Roxas City, past midnight on Sunday. The Bureau of Fire Protection placed the damage at P2 million. Fire Insp. Pancho del Cruz, city fire chief, said the hour-long fire of still unknown origin razed the entire establishment except its vault. No one was hurt. Bank operations were back to normal according to its management, since the bank's files were stored in computers at the main office in Manila. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Robbers strike near capitol

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—Two businessmen lost more than P500,000 to three motorcycle-riding men who held them up at gunpoint at the capitol compound on Tuesday. Rommel Jimenez and Lawrence Tabora, owners of the medical firm RL Pharma, had just parked their car at the finance building when one of the three robbers opened the door, poked a gun at Tabora and announced a holdup. Tabora said the man reached for the paper bag containing the money at the back. The two had just withdrawn the money from a Metrobank branch and were on their way to Alaminos City when they decided to drop by the capitol for possible purchase orders. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Army soldiers, rebels clash

LEGAZPI CITY—Government troops clashed with communist rebels in Pio Duran and Ligao towns in Albay on Monday, the military said. Maj. Christopher Morales, 9th Infantry Division spokesperson, said Army soldiers battled New People's Army rebels in Barangay Matanglad, Pio Duran, for five minutes before the latter withdrew toward Barangay Sukip of the same town. In Ligao, soldiers belonging to the 2nd Infantry Battalion encountered another group of rebels while patrolling Barangay Palaspas. The military recovered M-16 bullets, two .38 caliber revolvers, and antigovernment documents. On Saturday, NPA guerrillas fired upon an Army detachment in Barangay Mangcawayan, in Lupi, Camarines Sur, before fleeing toward Barangay Agao-ao in Ragay town. The military reported a similar attack on Thursday in Barangay Taysan in Legazpi City. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

More 'pogi points' for Ogie Alcasid

Twenty years ago, then newbie singer Ogie Alcasid threw his hat into the show biz ring by way of initial gigs in small watering holes, along with a number of then unheralded talents. If memory serves, we caught one of Ogie's fledgling sets in a showcase bar. We thought he was a frisky and funky young performer; otherwise, however, his performance gave little indication of the big multimedia star he is today.

The first big boost to Ogie's stellar career came when he was tapped to play the Everyman sort of hanger-on who followed the Ms Universe candidates around like a lovestruck puppy when the international beauty tilt was held in Manila.

Ogie's aw-shucks performance as the beauty pageant's "running gag" clicked with viewers, so the singer discovered that he had effectively launched an alternative career as a comedian.

Through the years, Ogie's singer-comedian "split personality" has turned out to be a one-two punch that has catapulted him all the way to the top, especially in the TV and recording fields.

On numerous sitcoms, and especially on the long-running "Bubble Gang," Ogie has played all sorts of zany characters, bending genders like pretzels—all the way to the bank.

Viewfinder

By NESTOR TORRE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Most remarkably of all, Ogie has of late launched a third career—as a hit songwriter. His love songs, have been sung and recorded by the biggest musical artists in the land, and it should only be a matter of time before he composes his first musical.

Speaking of stage musicals, it was while directing one of them, "Sino ka ba, Jose Rizal?" libretto and music by Nonoy Gallardo, that we first worked with Ogie.

While we were casting the title role with producer Celeste Legaspi, she informed us that Ogie wanted to play it. Initially, we nixed the idea, because Ogie was best known then as a comedian, and we thought his funnyman image would prevent viewers from taking his portrayal of our national hero seriously.

But, Ogie was determined to play Rizal, so he did the "unthinkable" for a star like him: He asked for an audition! Impressed, we agreed to conduct a one-on-one audition for a key scene in the demanding show, to see if he could hit all the required acting highs and lows.

Well, he did—with uncommon passion, versatility and conviction. When we emerged from the two-hour audition, we announced that we had found our Jose Rizal—in Ogie Alcasid.

And a marvelous Rizal Ogie turned out to be, with rave reviews heralding his performances up to the end of the musical's run.

That's why, when we were asked to direct another musical, "Mapaghimalang Birhen ng Caysasay," we didn't hesitate to cast Ogie in that show's male lead role, Hay Bing (alternating with Cocoy Laurel).

Again, Ogie was eager to do the musical, because its story was set in Taal, Batangas, and the Batangueño star's family turned out to be devotees of the miraculous Virgin.

The musical was so successful that it's being mounted again on Oct. 25, with two shows in Taal. Ogie is also very busy with performances and other events marking his 20th year in show business, but "Birhen ng Caysasay" means so much to him that he's agreed to play Hay Bing again in both shows on Oct. 25.

Well, that's Ogie Alcasid for you. He may be in top of the show biz world, but he knows his priorities, and is keen on using his popularity to promote significant and meaningful projects.

May his next decade in the biz be similarly prosperous, productive and blessed with more "pogi points" to add to the impressive number of achievements "Ogie da pogi" has already racked up!

Filipina's jewelry designs in 'Vogue'

By ANTON SAN DIEGO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Paris-based Rose Anne Cu-unjieng de Pampelonne is set to be the next big Philippine fashion star, if she isn't one already.

Her bejeweled accessories, or "cuddly ornamentation" as she likes to call them, were recently featured in *In Style* (modeled by pop superstar Rihanna) and *Elle*. Last September, they get prominent exposure in *Vogue* (Rachel Weisz on the cover) in the magazine's jewelry report.

It was also in that magazine that she was featured about two years ago as one of Paris' "secret addresses," for her embellished clothing designs, which are made in Nepal. She is in the spotlight again as her accessories make a big dent in the creative and crowded world of international fashion.

Last June, I was in Paris to interview and photograph this design powerhouse for this newspaper and for the cover of the *Philippine Tatler*, out this October. We did her shoot and interview at one of the homes she designed, a gorgeous tony two-story apartment with a breathtaking view of the Eiffel Tower.

I have known Rose Anne for quite some time and we manage to make time for catching up whenever I go to the City of Light. She is always very accommodating and kind-hearted. She loves to entertain and hobnob with the city's ultra-chic crowd.

VIEW, jewelry report
kenny scharf for alsoun
2.
The pop artist transfers his iconic cartoon characters from canvas to precious metals and gems.
3.
rose anne de pampelonne
Anything from Uzbekistani hats to antique Russian horse bridles spotted in a Moscow museum might spur this Paris-based interior designer's creativity.
• Her necklaces are handmade in Nepal, using duchesse satin, turquoise, labradorite, and tiger's-eye, and embroidery techniques from India, Iran, Tibet, and the Philippines.
INQUIRER.net

Rose Anne Cu-unjieng de Pampelonne jewelry get prominent exposure in *Vogue*.

The last time I was there, the wife of Louis Vuitton chair and chief executive Yves Carcelle, Rebecca, was giving Rose Anne a birthday party. Invited were some Filipinas like the very lovely Yvette Lhuillier-Warnod (Monique's beautiful sister, a carbon copy of her mom Amparito) and Ria Agousti whose furniture and accessories are sold in Barney's as well as in Paris.

Passion

Rose Anne's passion for creativity and sense of style has always been innate. She has taken lessons in painting in Florence and design in Paris. A good friend prodded her to open an interior design company upon seeing her work on the apartment she was then living in.

Today she is an accomplished interior designer with a coveted clientele all over the world. Her home has been featured in countless magazines and this column reported the coverage of her own home in Elle Décor (US) last April.

She also had a showroom in Manila called Artemis (now owned by Baby Girl Fricke) and her partners include her sister Libet Virata, Conrad Onglao, Anton Mendoza and Doris Ho.

Her jump to fashion, and now jewelry, has progressed naturally. She says it all started with embroidery that did not work on the clothes she designed. She kept them and made them into necklaces.

Kapamilya and Kapuso in-laws?

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Actress 1 shed tears backstage while watching the on-cam interview of Actress 2 who was crying as she tried to clear her name. Was it out of A1's sympathy or empathy? One naughty onlooker commented, "Kasi naman pareho sila ng kaaway." United tears of drama queens?

While a young actress was having treatment in a skin clinic, she was making chika with the attendant. Initially, it was all about show biz issues. Then the attendant was floored when the actress asked her pointblank in the vernacular, using the most vulgar Tagalog word for sex: "Who among the young actors do you want to go to bed with?" How's that for (un)pleasantries?

Eye to eye

Angelica Panganiban shines as Scarlet, the woman everyone loves to hate, in the teleserye "Iisa Pa Lamang." But in real life, she's out to make her detractors love her by proving them wrong about issues such as her having "amnesia" when it comes to press people.

She's bent on memorizing the names of everyone and wearing glasses to avoid mix-ups. Controversy breeds "rackets." An eyewear company volunteered to be the sponsor of Angelica's contact lens. She can now see eye to eye with the press.

Tough challenge

During my birthday bash, I didn't expect that "Startalk" would interview me and Tita Nena (Amalia Fuentes) about my best friend Liezl Martinez's (Tita Nena's unica hija) condition. We both didn't say much except to express our support for Liezl as she's hurdling a tough challenge these days.

I urge everyone to stop speculating and just say a little prayer for Liezl. That's the best thing to do.

Rustom Padilla was a scene-stealer: the openly gay actor (former husband of actress Carmina Villaruel) presented one of the awards in drag; the look on co-presenter Mark Gil's face is priceless.

Clean sweep for indies in Gawad Urian

MANILA, Philippines--It's definitely the year of independent films, judging from the outcome of the annual Gawad Urian of the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino.

It was a clean sweep for indies in the 31st staging of the prestigious film awards ceremony held at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (CCP Little Theater) in Pasay City Wednesday night.

Brillante Mendoza bagged Best Director for "Tirador," the film with the most awards at 5, which includes Best Picture, Best Sound (Ditoy Aguila and Junel Valencia) and Best Cinematography (Jeffrey dela Cruz, Brillante Mendoza, Gary Tria and Julius Villanueva). It also won an acting award, Best Supporting Actress (Angela Ruiz).

Mendoza's other film, "Foster Child," meanwhile, produced the Best Actress winner, Cherry Pie Picache.

Young actor Jason Abalos made a noteworthy triumph in his career with a Best Actor win for "Endo." He shared the honor with Sid Lucero, who won for "Selda."

Emilio Garcia won Best Supporting Actor also for "Selda."

Jade Castro, Michiko Yamamoto, and Raymond Lee took home the Best Screenplay award for "Endo" while Alecks Castañeda grabbed the Best Editing plum for "Tambolista."

Other creative awardees include Lav Diaz and Dante Perez, who won Best Production Design for "Death in the Land of Encantos" and Francis de Veyra, who prevailed with the Best Music award for "Tribu." ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Shooting first

One of the most embarrassing episodes in her presidency happened in August 2002, when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo rushed to the offices of the National Bureau of Investigation and, in front of TV cameras and news photographers, pointed to a Land Bank of the Philippines cashier as a suspect in the diversion of P203 million in tax payments to private accounts. It turned out that the cashier, Acsa Ramirez, was indeed a key player in the affair — but not as a participant in the fraud but as the person who did her civic duty by exposing it to the authorities. Although she learned soon enough that she had committed a terrible mistake, Ms Arroyo refused to apologize and simply asked the nation "not to have an extended run on the issue." But it was clear that she had learned her lesson well: She never again lent her presence to televised presentations of suspects routinely staged by the police.

Still it took six years and several changes in its leadership before the Philippine National Police followed the example of the commander in chief. Finally, last Saturday, Director General Jesus Versoza ordered all PNP regional and provincial commanders to stop the practice of parading suspects in front of the media and the public. It was the first instruction Versoza gave to his subordinates after he assumed the highest PNP post, perhaps indicating the high priority he was giving to the protection of human rights.

While the practice persisted, mere suspects were practically pronounced guilty by the police without the benefit of a trial. This was a violation of their basic human and constitutional right to be presumed innocent until proven otherwise.

In July this year, Commission on Human Rights Chair Leila de Lima deplored the practice and cited it as one of the reasons that made the PNP the country's No. 1 violator of human rights. Then PNP Director General Avelino Razon later announced that the police would try out the policy of banning such presentations to make the PNP "more human rights compliant." But it was left to Versoza to issue the order to end the practice.

That was a good start for the new police chief who took over from Razon only last Saturday. But he has a very long way to go and a lot more to do before the public can regain its trust in the PNP and give it the kind of cooperation it needs to combat criminality effectively. As De Lima pointed out, Filipinos cannot easily forget police abuses.

This policy of shooting first and asking questions later seems to be very much in play to this day. In fact, hardly a week passes when the police are not involved in "shootouts" that almost always end up with holdup men and sundry criminals being killed. True, criminals are becoming bolder and come better armed, and policemen have been killed in some cases. But the rising frequency of one-sided gun battles is becoming suspicious. If Versoza wants to leave a better human rights record as his legacy, he should see to it that the rules of engagement are strictly followed during such encounters. The members of the PNP ought to be reminded that their duty is to prevent crime and solve it when it happens. Judging suspects and meting out the appropriate punishment are not part of their job description. These cannot form part of the PNP standard operating procedures. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

The speech we would have liked to hear

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Last Tuesday, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo spoke at the opening of the 63rd United Nations General Assembly. Her aides depicted it as a speech that held the Assembly in thrall. There was little mention of it, however, on the BBC or Bloomberg or even Fox News. There was no mention of it, even among the miscellaneous items, in Yahoo or Google news or in that of Yahoo Messenger or Windows Messenger.

In her speech to the UN, which not unlike her addresses to the nation presumed a gullible audience (Transparency International had just reported her government as having become even more corrupt even as she spoke), Arroyo invoked peace. "There is no alternative to peace. I stand before you today to declare loud and clear that we are committed to the process of peace in Mindanao …. The context of our engagement with all armed groups shall subscribe to the UN-recognized principles of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration …. We maintain high hopes in our interfaith dialogue as a means to building bridges rather than barriers between communities."

I'm almost sure Arroyo would have landed among the top stories of CNN, BBC, Bloomberg, Fox, Yahoo, Google and Yahoo and Windows Messenger had she delivered a different speech. It would have been a speech her country, quite apart from the world, would have loved to hear. That speech is this:

"There is no alternative to peace. I stand before you today to declare loud and clear that we are committed to peace. In that light, I stand before you today to declare loud and clear that I am resigning as president of my country.

"At the very least, I am doing so to dispel universal suspicion that my earnest professions of commitment to peace are merely tied to my veiled manifestations of commitment to war-against my country. So long as I am there, so long will the world believe I mean to use the effort to end war in Mindanao as an effort to amend the Charter to allow me to run again.

"Quite apart from that, I stand before you to declare loud and clear my profound embarrassment at being the only world leader to have resolutely prosecuted a peace process that has led inexorably to war. Before I unveiled the agreement to end the war once and for all in Mindanao, there was peace in Mindanao. A fretful peace, doubtless, interrupted by routine saber-rattling by armed groups to remind the world they are still there, but peace nonetheless. After I unveiled the agreement to end war once and for all in Mindanao, there was war in Mindanao. Whether that strikes you as horrendous incompetence or duplicitous intent, I mean to give peace a chance by declaring once and for all I am quitting.

"That is so moreover because I realize that war isn't just ravaging Mindanao today, it is ravaging my entire country. I stand before you also to declare my absolute embarrassment at being the only leader in Asia still fighting a war against communists. At a time when communist groups have become part of the electoral process in other countries, including those that vowed to extirpate it. At a time when the communist rebellion no longer poses a threat to me the way it did to my predecessors. Indeed, at a time when my government is desperate to establish closer ties with the only communist power left in the world, which is China.

"While at this too, you might have noted the irony that we have abolished the death penalty only to institute the killing fields (plowed with the bones of journalists and political activists), that we turn a blind eye to runaway population growth only to pay attention to decimating the populace with war and want. Call it horrendous incompetence too or duplicitous intent, well, call it anything you want, it's probably all of the above.

"I understand, moreover, that the war that's ravaging my country isn't just the physical war in Mindanao and elsewhere, it is also the spiritual war in the hearts and minds of the citizens. It is the monumental divisiveness that now wracks this country, which I myself predicted would happen if I ran for president in 2004. It is the profound distrust the citizens have for my government, not least because I have repeatedly given them cause to believe I say one thing and do another—they will probably think my vow to resign now is just another one of those things—and most of all because they figure I did not win the elections anyway. It is, sad to say, the unbearable hatred the citizens hold for me, which has hounded me and hobbled me at every turn.

"I realize that no country can possibly survive war and want, strife and divisiveness, the consumption of the body and the rotting away of the soul, without a leader the citizens can trust and unite behind. I mean to do a good deed today. I can only hope that, unlike the way things have gotten in my country, that good goes unpunished.

"I entrust the leadership of my country to a caretaker government to be headed by the Chief Justice, which will hold snap elections as soon as possible. The next government to be bound to taking the necessary steps to resolve the war in Mindanao, even if it has to submit the Charter to change to accommodate a lasting settlement with the Moros. At least it will not be suspected of harboring ulterior motives.

"But first things first: I stand before you today to declare loud and clear that we are committed to peace. I stand before you today to declare loud and clear we are committed to removing all obstacles to peace. I stand before you today to declare loud and clear I am removing the biggest obstacle to peace. I stand before you today to declare loud and clear I am removing myself.

"Peace be with you. Peace be with my countrymen. Peace be—such as my conscience will allow it—with me."

A gifted painter now almost forgotten

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo (1855-1913) is acknowledged as one of the great Filipino painters of the late 19th century. If one of his paintings is available on the art market, it usually comes with a seven-figure price tag. But to say that his friend and contemporary, Juan Luna, overshadowed him is an understatement. Both won medals in the 1884 Madrid Exposition of Fine Arts, but Hidalgo and his silver medal do not quite top Luna's gold.

Both were gifted artists, and some people are of the opinion that Hidalgo was technically a better painter than Luna, so why is he almost forgotten? The difference lies in their lives. Luna's tragic life, highlighted by his murder of his wife and mother-in-law, is packed with enough action to feed a novel or fuel a period film. Hidalgo lived a quiet life, painting in his Paris studio and spending three decades abroad, longer than the period he lived in the Philippines.

Hidalgo was not involved in the reform movement, although he counted the major players, like Jose Rizal, Marcelo del Pilar, Mariano Ponce and Graciano Lopez Jaena, among his friends or at least nodding acquaintances. He returned briefly to the Philippines in 1912, long after the turbulence of the Philippine Revolution and the Philippine-American War. Unlike Luna, he did not associate himself with the First Philippine Republic under Emilio Aguinaldo. One could say that if he had stepped into the river of Philippine history, he would have been more than a footnote in our textbooks.

For the last 25 years that I have been a frequent visitor to the Lopez Memorial Museum, I would relax from library research by stretching my legs and walking in the Hidalgo gallery to admire and study the paintings, oil studies, or "bocetos," and drawings collected by Eugenio Lopez Sr. Looking at all these makes me see how meticulous he was in preparing for a painting and this give me an insight into his personality. Lopez collected more Hidalgo works than Lunas, yet visitors pay more attention to Luna.

Hidalgo was born in Manila on Feb. 21, 1855. He was the third in a brood of seven, fruits of the union of Eduardo Resurreccion Hidalgo and Maria Barbara Padilla who has been immortalized in midlife and old age by her son. In an age before photography, upper-class Filipinos recorded their likenesses in commissioned portraits. Some had grand ones made for their well-appointed living rooms; others had portable miniatures painted on sheets of tin or ivory.

One of the most famous portrait painters in the Philippines was Antonio Malantic, who made a portrait of Narciso Hidalgo and his grandson in 1859. It is a wonderful work showing two generations of one family. It is also a significant painting that explains how history changes even the titles of works of art. In 1859, this Malantic work was known as "Narciso Hidalgo and his grandson," but today it is better known as "Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo and his grandfather." The grandson has eclipsed the patriarch.

We have no record of Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo's early schooling, although we can presume he had a private tutor or was taught by his mother, a businesswoman who had attended the Escuela Municipal [Municipal School]. He completed his Bachiller en Filosofia [Bachelor in Philosophy] in 1871 at the University of Santo Tomas. What is not well known is that he was implicated in a student demonstration that gained significance in the persecution that followed the execution of Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora in 1872. Historian O.D. Corpuz describes the period best as the "Terror of 1872." It wiped out a whole generation of prominent Filipinos.

Perhaps as a result of this terror, Hidalgo retired to his studio and devoted his life to painting. He enrolled in the Manila Escuela de Dibujo y Pintura, the school of drawing and painting run by a man named Agustin Saez. Luna also studied here briefly and, depending on the book you are reading, either left or was expelled from school. Saez was a good teacher but didn't seem to be a nice man.

In 1877, Domingo Vidal y Soler held a contest for the frontispiece of a grand edition of Manuel Blanco's "Flora de Filipinas." Hidalgo won second place and would probably have won the top prize if the more experienced school director, Saez, did not compete with his students. The frontispiece by Hidalgo is not extant, but if you go through the colored plates of this wonderful botanical work, you will find some plates done by him.

Hidalgo must have shown his talents early in Manila because some of his paintings were sent to the Philadelphia Exposition of 1879. With not much more to learn in Manila or perhaps to escape the "Terror of 1872," he went to Spain and enrolled in the Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando in Madrid, the same school where other Filipino artists also enrolled, among them, Esteban Villanueva, Miguel Zaragoza, Juan Luna, and Jose Rizal.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

REUNION OF EX-SAIPAN RESIDENTS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Saipan residents get together with friends in Seattle, Washington. In picture are, clockwise from left, Elmer, Rey, Joshua, and Nitz, Jenny, Ana, Ople, Allen, Josh and Bing. Rey, Nitz and Joshua hosted lunch for the Chavez family, who is now based in Canada.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bautista family—Ople, Jenny and Allen—hosts lunch for Elmer and Bing Chavez during a recent get-together in Seattle, Washington.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Chavez family have their picture taken at the Tulalip Resort Casino.

MAFEA INDUCTION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo, left, administers the oath for this year's officers and directors of the Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects during their induction at Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall last Saturday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Businessman Ruel Villacrusis, extreme left, and MAFEA president Norberto I. De Guzman, standing, pose with members and supporters of MAFEA during the induction of the association's officers last Saturday at Fiesta Resort and Spa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAFEA officers, directors, members, and supporters gather for a photo as Hi Pitch Band members perform a song during MAFEA's successful induction of officers at Fiesta's Hibiscus Hall last Saturday.

BIRTHDAY GIRL

Birthday girl Erich Mananlo poses with Hapi the Clown during her birthday party held at the JC Café on Tinian on Sept. 19, 2008.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YoungStyle

Election issues for 2008: The War in Iraq and Afghanistan

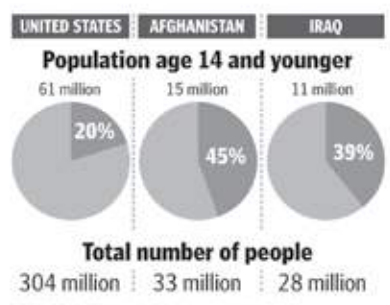
WHERE THE CANDIDATES STAND ON THE WARS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

		JOHN MCCAIN	BARACK OBAMA
IRAQ	Position on 2003 invasion	Supported; voted in Senate to authorize force in 2002.	Opposed; was not yet a U.S. senator but said he would have voted against war.
IRAQ	Early war strategy	Criticized; said there were not enough troops to succeed.	Opposed; said government was unprepared when war went badly.
IRAQ	Position on the "surge" From June 2007 to March 2008, 30,000 more troops were sent to Iraq; strategy resulted in drop in violence.	Leading voice for troop surge; says it significantly reduced violence in Iraq.	Opposed surge; says decision by Iraqi groups to stop fighting each other was a main reason for violence drop.
IRAQ	How long could U.S. troops expect to remain in Iraq if you're president?	Won't commit to a specific date; says it depends on events in Iraq.	Says almost all troops would return home within 16 months.
AFGHANISTAN	Position on war	Supported invasion; thought more troops should have been sent. Thinks main battleground of war on terror is in Iraq.	Supported invasion; has called for more troops for several years. Thinks main battleground for war on terror is in Afghanistan.

SOURCES: Department of Defense, staff reports, candidates' Web sites, www.votegopher.com

COUNTRIES IN CONFLICT

Kids in Afghanistan and Iraq make up a bigger percentage of their country's population than kids in the United States do.



SOURCE: CIA World Factbook, July 2008 estimates. Figures are rounded, so 45.4 is 45.

THE WASHINGTON POST

US Troop Counts

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

AFGHANISTAN
Today: 31,000
Early 2009: 34,700 (commanders say they need even more to defeat Taliban fighters trying to take control)

IRAQ
Today: 151,000
Early 2009: 142,000

TOTAL
Today: 182,000
Early 2009: 176,700

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. How long should U.S. troops stay in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Many of you probably don't remember a time when the United States wasn't at war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Deciding what to do about these wars will fall to the new president. That's why it is important to understand the plans of both candidates running for president: Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain.

American troops invaded Afghanistan in October 2001, a few weeks after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. President Bush ordered the invasion as part of the war on terror to catch Osama bin Laden and punish him for masterminding those attacks. The Taliban government in Afghanistan, which protected bin Laden, was overthrown. But bin Laden hasn't been captured, and his terrorist group, al-Qaida, still operates.

You've probably heard more about the war in Iraq. American troops were sent into the country in 2003 to overthrow dictator Saddam Hussein. Bush said Iraq was hiding dangerous weapons, known as weapons of mass destruction. No such weapons were found.

The United States has helped the Iraqi people set up a new government, but groups within that country are fighting for control. More than 4,100 U.S. service members and thousands more Iraqis have been killed.

That's part of the reason that war is a central campaign issue.

The chart below shows where McCain and Obama stand on the issues of the Iraq and Afghan wars.

Can you drawn in quicksand?

By VALERIE STRAUSS
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

You may have seen a television show or read a story in which a character suddenly lands in quicksand and can't stop from sinking.

Quicksand is real stuff. It is created when water (usually from an underground spring) is forced up into sand, creating an icky souplike combination. Quicksand is most likely to be found on beaches, shorelines of lakes and rivers, near underground springs and marshes. Unlike in movies—where quicksand is often shown as being enormous, deep and difficult to escape from—it really usually isn't more than a few feet deep.

The tricky thing about quicksand is that, from the surface, it looks like dry sand. A person or an animal can stray into it without realizing it.

You can get an idea of what quicksand is like at a beach.

Look at the difference in the sand when you are standing on the driest part of the beach. As you get closer to the water, the sand will be wet and clumpy. That's because the water has caused the sand particles to stick together. It's easy to build sand castles with this type of sand.

But if you were to add a lot of water to that sand, the particles would not stick together but become loose. The sand would become so unstable you couldn't walk on it; in other words, quicksand. The movies sometimes show quicksand as something that is almost alive, ready to suck down anything that blunders into it. That's not what happens.

In fact, it is easier to escape from quicksand than you might think—as long as you don't panic. Struggling really does make you sink faster.

If you ever find yourself sinking into the muck, move slowly. Try to find something solid to grab onto and pull yourself up.

If there is nothing to grab a hold of, float.

Lie on your back with your arms out as if you were floating in water, and wait to be rescued; it's actually quite easy to float in quicksand.

There is a community in Kentucky named Quicksand. Why? It is near Quicksand Creek, and there are stories that more than a hundred years ago travelers got caught there in shifting sands. They don't now, but the name has stuck!

Sand Trivia

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

People who collect different kinds of sand as a hobby are called "psammophiles." It is made from two Greek words: "Psammo" means "sand," and "philes" means "lovers of."

By FRED BOWEN
Special to
The Washington Post

Bowen writes KidsPost's sports opinion column and is an author of sports novels for kids.

3 cheers for my 3 top baseball teams

The Major League Baseball playoffs have started. This year, I am rooting for three teams.

I am rooting for my Boston Red Sox, of course. I have been a Sox fan my whole life, so I can't change teams now. But the Red Sox have won two of the past four World Series, so it doesn't seem as important that they win another.

If my Sox don't win, I hope the Chicago Cubs go all the way. The Cubs have not won the World Series since 1908. That's 100 years!

In 1908, Teddy Roosevelt wasn't just a big-headed mascot who couldn't win the Presidents' Race at Nationals Park; he was the president of the United States. There were no televisions or computers in 1908. Very few people owned automobiles. And about the only folks flying in airplanes were the Wright brothers.

One hundred years is long enough to wait. Long-suffering Cubs fans (there is no other kind) deserve to celebrate a championship.

But I am also pulling for the Tampa Bay Rays. Last year, when they were the Devil Rays, Tampa Bay won only 66 out of 162 games. This year, they changed their name, which seemed to change their luck. The Rays surprised everyone, including the powerful New York Yankees, winning 97 games and the Eastern Division of the American League.

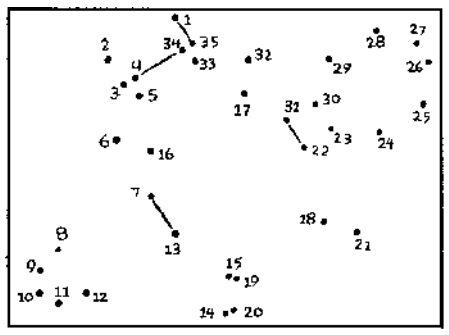
Of course, it wasn't all luck. The Rays have solid starting pitching led by James Shields (14 wins, 8 losses) and Scott Kazmir (12-8) as well as a much-improved bullpen. The Rays pitchers surrendered the second-fewest number of runs in the American League.

On the field, Tampa Bay is loaded with young, talented players who can run and play terrific defense. Centerfielder B.J. Upton, who is just 24 years old, was among the league leaders in getting on base (.383 on-base percentage) and in stolen bases. Third baseman Evan Longoria led all American League rookies in home runs and runs batted in. First baseman Carlos Pena provided extra pop, smashing 31 home runs.

Baseball fans expected the inexperienced Rays to cool off, but they kept on winning. Who knows? They may keep winning all the way through the World Series.

Watching the baseball playoffs is always fun and exciting. Only the best teams are playing, and every game is important. Every pitch, every swing of the bat and every play in the field can be the difference between winning a championship and going home disappointed.

The games are even more fun if you have a team to root for. This year, I should have lots of fun. I am rooting for three teams.

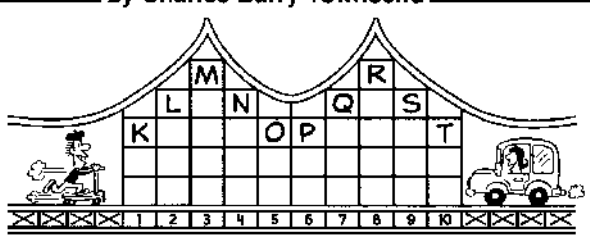


CONNECT THE DOTS to solve this riddle!
"He wears a hat stuck on his neck.
Because he has no head;
And many a time his hat comes off
When we are sick in bed."

Answer: A bottle of medicine.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

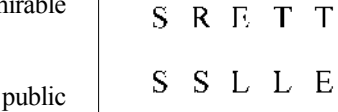


A WORD BRIDGE! The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each word, plus plenty of hints.

1. A set of related articles.
2. A den or hideaway.
3. A mansion.
4. Type of salamander.
5. Unit of electrical resistance.
6. Type of wooden fastener.
7. Type of knowledge testing.
8. Airplane detector.
9. A fraudulent business scheme.
10. A fancy dinner jacket.

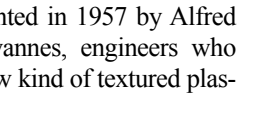
Answers: 1. Kit. 2. Lair. 3. Manor. 4. Newt. 5. Ohm. 6. Peg. 7. Quiz. 8. Radar. 9. Scam. 10. Tux.

THINK ROMAN! As you can see, this Roman numeral equation is incorrect. Can you fix it by moving one of the sticks to a new position?



Answer: Take one stick from the "equal" sign and place it over the "minus" sign. The equation now reads: IV = VI - II or 4 = 6 - 2.

SEE IF YOU CAN STAR IN THIS "WORD EPIC"! Pictured below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.



1. Belongs to animals.
2. Interval between events.
3. Pointed tools.
4. Area in a building.

1. Found at the shore.
2. A short written piece.
3. A cabbage salad.
4. To secure with ropes.

Answers: 1. Furs-suit. 2. Time-item. 3. Awls-slaw. 4. Room-moor.

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First aid for pets

Q: I sometimes worry about what I would do if my dog or two cats were badly injured – hit by a car or bitten by a wild animal from the woods out back. We live several miles from the nearest veterinary clinic. Other than stopping bleeding, I don't know much else about how I would help them. Do you have any suggestions on where I can find out about given emergency care?—Frank L., via e-mail

A: The American Red Cross, while better known for supplying information on people first aid, offers two pet books—"Dog First Aid" and "Cat First Aid," available online at www.redcross.org. The books give basic information on treating injured or ill pets immediately, and tell you how to stock a "pet first-aid kit" that should be kept within easy reach.

The organization also offers a pet first-aid course at some of its chapters nationwide. Check the above Web site or contact the nearest Red Cross chapter for available classes. The book and course can be invaluable for recognizing signs of illness or injury in your pets, and providing immediate care—including CPR—until you reach a veterinary clinic.

While waiting for your first-aid books to arrive, it's a good idea to write the veterinary clinic's phone number in an easy-to-remember place (or put on speed dial) and to find out the clinic's hours and the veterinarian's schedule. Ask the clinic how it handles after-hours emergencies—you may need to drive quickly to an alternative vet clinic.

Knowing what to do in an emergency can provide tremendous peace of mind.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ Those who study such things claim that a single teaspoon of ordinary soil contains more living creatures than all the humans on the planet.

■ Eleven years after Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was assassinated, thieves attempted to steal the corpse and hold it for ransom.

■ It was Robert Wright, journalist, scholar and author of best-selling books about science, who made the following sage observation: "Like a lawyer, the human brain wants victory, not truth; and, like a lawyer, it is sometimes more admirable for skill than virtue."

■ In Sarasota, Fla., it is illegal to sing in a public place while wearing a swimsuit.

■ Bubble wrap was invented in 1957 by Alfred Fielding and Marc Chavannes, engineers who were trying to invent a new kind of textured plastic wallpaper.

■ A bird known as the Arctic tern makes the world's longest migration, flying 21,750 miles and traveling nearly from pole to pole.

■ If you're like most Americans, you've probably played with a NERF ball at some point in your life. You might not realize, though, that NERF stands for Non-Expanding Recreational Foam.

■ It's been reported that in the movie "The Silence of the Lambs," Hannibal Lechter, the character played by Sir Anthony Hopkins, never blinks.

■ The monkfish, a species of anglerfish found primarily in the northwestern Atlantic Ocean, has an enormous head. Really, really enormous. The monkfish's head is so large, in fact, that it makes up three-quarters of its body.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "An author is a fool who, not content with boring those he lives with, insists on boring future generations."—Charles de Montesquieu

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MAGIC MAZE ● ANAGRAMS OF GIRLS NAMES STARTING WITH "S"

L H E B Y V S P M J H E B Y V
T Q O L I G D B Y W T R P M K
I A F D B Y A W U Y S Q O M K
I S H O P E D R U I F D B Z X
W A U S L Q O G I A R O N L J
H S U A N F R D L S I C A Y W
V H S A R O N L T D E U S S I
S I E N I P S E T A H N Q P N
H L K N I E H A F N Y E C B Z
S R E T T A L C Y A L Y W V U
S S L L E Y E H R R S Q P N M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

A sash	Clatters	Is hope	Senior guy
Adorns	Hates pine	No rash	Sly heir
All set	He yells	No say	Use
Arisen	His ale	Ran ads	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		x		35
x		+		–	
	+		x		22
+		x		x	
	+		+		21
39		36		25	

1 2 3 4 5 7 7 8 9

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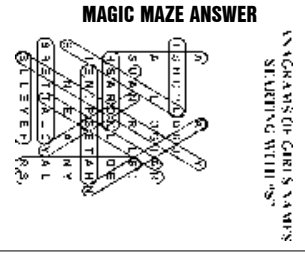
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

4	+	1	x	7	35
x		+		–	
8	+	3	x	2	22
+		x		x	
7	+	9	+	5	21
39		36		25	

Genealogy cereal-box puzzle play

While the older kids are off to school, create some special at-home fun with your preschoolers. Put the pieces of your family members together with a homemade genealogy puzzle. You and your child will have a great time making and playing with this unique family tree.

Here's the stuff you need:

■ 8 small, empty, rectangular single-portion cereal boxes

■ 1 photocopied photograph or a drawn self-portrait of your child (about 8-inches by 12-inches)

■ Photocopies or scanned pictures of your child's parents, grandparents and great grandparents, or special aunts and uncles and caretakers representing different generations

■ Pencil, markers and paint

■ Scissors

■ Plain-colored paper

■ Glue

■ Empty grapefruit or orange net bag for storage (optional)

Here's the fun in three easy steps:

1. Lay your child's portrait facedown on a table. Line the boxes side by side on the back of the portrait in two vertical rows. Draw around each box with a pencil, then cut out the pieces. Cover the printing on the narrow sides of the cereal box with paint or colored packing tape, if you wish, then glue the puzzle portrait pieces on the front of each box.

2. Turn the boxes over, keeping them in two vertical rows. Glue rectangles of plain colored paper to the backs of the boxes. Now you can begin creating your child's family tree together. Starting at the bottom row of boxes, draw and color the trunk of a tree, then create branches spreading out into the top three rows.

3. Glue a small picture of your child or children on the bottom row. On level two, glue pictures of parents. Continue with a different generation of faces on each row.

To play, mix up the pieces and start puzzling all the pieces on the portrait side or family tree side. Say the names of the people as you assemble the puzzle. Tell your child how they are related, and share a story or two about the person, if you wish.

Store in an empty grapefruit net bag and hang on a hook.

Grandparent-grandchild conversation starter tip:

Find photos of yourself when you were your grandchildren's ages. Place them next to current photos of the grandchildren and observe clothing and activities portrayed in the photos. Keep the conversation going as you contrast and compare life then and now.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Strippers, armadillos inspire Ig Nobel winners

By MARK PRATT
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Deborah Anderson had heard the urban legends about the contraceptive effectiveness of Coca-Cola products for years. So she and her colleagues decided to put the soft drink to the test. In the lab, that is.

For discovering that, yes indeed, Coke was a spermicide, Anderson and her team are among this year's winners of the Ig Nobel prize, the annual award given by the Annals of Improbable Research magazine to oddball but often surprisingly practical scientific achievements.

The ceremony at Harvard University, in which actual Nobel laureates bestow the awards, also honored a British psychologist who found foods that sound better taste better; a group of researchers who discovered exotic dancers make more money when they are at peak fertility; and a pair of Brazilian archaeologists who determined armadillos can change the course of history.

Anderson, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Boston University's School of Medicine, and her colleagues found that not only was Coca-Cola a spermicide, but that Diet Coke for some reason worked best. Their study appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine in 1985.

"We're thrilled to win an Ig Nobel, because the study was somewhat of a parody in the first place," Anderson said, adding she does not recommend using Coke for birth control purposes.

A group of Taiwanese doctors were honored for a similar study that found Coca-Cola and other soft drinks were not effective contraceptives. Anderson said the studies used different methodology.

A Coca-Cola spokeswoman refused comment on the Ig Nobel awards.

Duke University behavioral economist Dan Ariely won an Ig Nobel for his study that found more expensive fake medicines work better than cheaper fake medicines.

"When you expect something to happen, your brain makes it happen," Ariely said.

Ariely spent three years in a hospital after suffering third-degree burns over 70 percent of his body. He noticed some burn patients who woke in the night in extreme pain often went right back to sleep after being given a shot. A nurse confided to him the injections were often just saline solution.

He says his work has implications for the way drugs are marketed. People often think generic medicine is inferior. But gussy it up a bit, change the name, make it appear more expensive, and maybe it will work better, he said.

Charles Spence's award-winning work also has to do with the way the mind functions. Spence, a professor of experimental psychology at Oxford University in England, found that potato chips—"crisps" to the British—that sound crunchier taste better.

AP

Opera Soloists, from left, Ben Sears, and Maria Ferrante are flagged by V-Chip Monitors as they perform an opera about redundancy at the Ig Nobel Prize Ceremony at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008.

IG NOBEL WINNERS

The 2008 Ig Nobel winners, awarded Thursday at Harvard University by the Annals of Improbable Research magazine:

NUTRITION: Massimiliano Zampini and Charles Spence for demonstrating that food tastes better when it sounds better.

PEACE: The Swiss Federal Ethics Committee on Non-Human Biotechnology and the citizens of Switzerland for adopting the legal principle that plants have dignity.

ARCHAEOLOGY: Astolfo Gomes de Mello Araujo and Jose Carlos Marcelino for showing armadillos can scramble the contents of an archaeological dig.

BIOLOGY: Marie-Christine Cadiergues, Christel Joubert and Michel Franc for discovering that fleas that live on a dog can jump higher than fleas that live on a cat.

MEDICINE: Dan Ariely for demonstrating that expensive fake medicine is more effective than cheap fake medicine.

COGNITIVE SCIENCE: Toshiyuki Nakagaki, Hiroyasu Yamada, Ryo Kobayashi, Atsushi Tero, Akio Ishiguro and Agota Toth for discovering that slime molds can solve puzzles.

ECONOMICS: Geoffrey Miller, Joshua Tyber and Brent Jordan for discovering that exotic dancers earn more when at peak fertility.

PHYSICS: Dorian Raymer and Douglas Smith for proving that heaps of string or hair will inevitably tangle.

CHEMISTRY: Sheree Umpierre, Joseph Hill and Deborah Anderson for discovering that Coca-Cola is an effective spermicide, and C.Y. Hong, C.C. Shieh, P. Wu and B.N. Chiang for proving it is not.

LITERATURE: David Sims for his study "You Bastard: A Narrative Exploration of the Experience of Indignation within Organizations."

Source: Annals of Improbable Research.

'Alternative Nobels' go to journalist, activists

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP)—A U.S. journalist, a Swiss-born doctor and activists from India and Somalia were named on Wednesday as this year's winners of the Right Livelihood Award, also known as the "alternative Nobel."

The recipients will share a 2 million kronor (US$290,000) cash award to be split in four parts. Swedish-German philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull founded the awards in 1980 to recognize work he felt was being ignored by the Nobel Prizes.

ON THE NET:
http://www.rightlivelihood.org

American reporter Amy Goodman, founder and host of the syndicated radio and television program "Democracy Now!", was honored for "truly independent political journalism that brings to millions of people the alternative voices that are often excluded by mainstream media," the organizers said.

The program works to provide listeners with independent reports from around the world to portray the effects of U.S. foreign policy, featuring accounts from artists, activists, academics and analysts.

Goodman, born in 1957, was also one of about 800 demonstrators and journalists arrested during protests at a Republican National Convention in the U.S. in mid-September.

The jury also honored the founder of medica mondiale, gynecologist Monika Hauser, for her work to help sexually abused women in world crisis zones.

Swiss-born Hauser holds an Italian passport and lives and works in Germany, they said.

Somali lawmaker Asha Hagi was honored for her efforts to promote peace in her homeland by "continuing to lead at great personal risk the female participation in the peace and reconciliation process," the organizers said.

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Beverly Hills Chihuahua
Friday 4:05 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:05 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:05 7:00
Mon and Tue 4:05 7:00
Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG
Synopsis
Chloe, a diamond-clad, bootie wearing Beverly Hills Chihuahua enjoys her luxurious lifestyle so much, she hardly notices Papi, a tough looking Chihuahua who happens to be head-over-paws for the pampered pooch. But when Chloe gets lost in the rough streets of Mexico with only a street-wise German Shepherd to help her find her way home, Papi heads south of the border--joining forces with a motley crew: two humans, a sly rat and a nervous iguana—to rescue his true love.

Blindness
Friday 4:25 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Mon and Tue 4:25 7:30
Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo
Drama, Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
It begins in a flash, as one man is instantaneously struck blind while driving home from work, his whole world suddenly turned to an eerie, milky haze. One by one, each person he encounters—his wife, his doctor, even the seemingly good Samaritan who gives him a lift home—will in due course suffer the same unsettling fate. As the contagion spreads, and panic and paranoia set in across the city, the newly blind victims of the "White Sickness" are rounded up and quarantined within a crumbling, abandoned mental asylum, where all semblance of ordinary life begins to break down.

Eagle Eye
Friday 4:20 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:20 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:05
Mon and Tue 4:20 7:05
Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Jerry Shaw and Rachel Holloman are two strangers thrown together by a mysterious phone call from a woman they have never met. Threatening their lives and family, she pushes Jerry and Rachel into a series of increasingly dangerous situations--using the technology of everyday life to track and control their every move. As the situation escalates, these two ordinary people become the country's most wanted fugitives, who must work together to discover what is really happening.

Nights in Rodanthe
Friday 4:00 7:10 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:00 7:10 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:00 7:10
Mon and Tue 4:00 7:10
Richard Gere, Diane Lane
Romance, Drama • Rated PG 13

Disaster Movie
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:15
Mon and Tue 4:15 7:15
Carmen Electra, Matt Lanter
Comedy • Rated PG 13

House Bunny
Friday 4:10 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:25
Mon and Tue 4:10 7:25
Ana Faris, Katharine McPhee
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Death Race
Friday 4:30 7:20 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:20 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:20
Mon and Tue 4:30 7:20
Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

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James Earl Jones to get SAG award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Earl Jones, who has voiced some of entertainment's most memorable characters, will receive the 2008 Screen Actors Guild Life Achievement Award.

SAG President Alan Rosenberg called Jones "a vocal presence without peer" and lauded his TV, film and stage work.

"His long and quiet devotion to advancing literacy, the arts and humanities on a national and local scale deserves our appreciation," Rosenberg said Thursday.

Jones, who said he was mute as a child because of a stuttering problem, credits reading with helping him find his voice.

"Through a love of reading, I was able to overcome my muteness and pursue a career in which my voice would be my most prominent asset," the 77-year-old actor said.

He is known to fans of all ages as the voice of Darth Vader in "Star Wars" and Mufasa in Disney's "The Lion King" as well as CNN.

Jones has collected myriad acting honors, including two Tony awards, three Emmys, an Oscar nomination and the National Medal of Arts.

He will be presented with the Life Achievement Award at the Screen Actors Guild awards on Jan. 25.

In this Jan. 8, 2008 file photo, James Earl Jones is shown on the first day of rehearsal for the new Broadway production of "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof," in New York.

AP

Salma Hayek helping fight tetanus in moms, babies

GENEVA (AP)—Hollywood mom Salma Hayek is lending her star power to a UNICEF campaign to eradicate tetanus in mothers and babies around the world within four years.

Hayek, a paid spokeswoman for Pampers' tetanus vaccine program, recounted her experiences during a recent trip to the West African nation of Sierra Leone, where she met with tetanus victims.

"One of the things that was very moving about the trip was to see 15-year-old girls, really young, taking responsibility for their lives and their children before they're born by saying 'I am going to be healthy, I am going to take this vaccination,'" she told journalists at the United Nations on Thursday.

"I had no idea how much this was going to really personally move me," added the 42-year-old star of films including "Desperado" and "Frida."

The Pampers-UNICEF partnership has already provided over 50 million vaccines to mothers and babies in developing countries, where tetanus kills up to 140,000 infants and 30,000 women each year, according to the U.N. agency.

Pampers, owned by Procter & Gamble Co., said it would give UNICEF the money for one tetanus vaccine for every pack of specially marked diapers it sells before the end of the year. It expects that to produce 70 million more vaccinations. Hayek's daughter Valentina Paloma Pinault was born in September 2007.

Mexican actress Salma Hayek, spokeswoman for the global Pampers/UNICEF campaign "One Pack = One Vaccine", reacts during a press conference to announce the partnership between UNICEF and Pampers aimed at eliminating maternal and newborn tetanus, at the United Nations building in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008.

AP

Dailey & Vincent big winners at bluegrass awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—New duo Dailey & Vincent dominated the International Bluegrass Music Association awards Thursday, winning entertainer of the year, album of the year, vocal group, emerging artist and gospel recorded performance.

"To the fans that come out to see the shows - thank you so much. You're exciting to be around," Darrin Vincent said. "I promise you we'll give our 100 percent best to honor bluegrass music this year."

Vincent, a member of Ricky Skaggs' Kentucky Thunder before striking out on his own last year with Jamie Dailey, a former member of Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, were the leading nominees with 10.

They won gospel recorded performance for "By the Mark." Dailey also won for best male vocalist.

"Doyle Lawson, I love you like a Daddy. Thank you for being a great leader," Dailey said.

The duo went head to head with their old bosses in a number of categories. Vince Gill presented them the entertainer award and quipped, "Pretty good year to be named Vincent, I have to say."

Dale Ann Bradley won for female vocalist in a tough field that included perennial favorites Alison Krauss and Rhonda Vincent.

"This is very sweet, and I appreciate this so much," said an emotional Bradley.

Barry Bales was awarded bass player of the year.

"Thanks to Alison Krauss and Union Station for the best on-the-job training in the world," remarked Bales, a member of Union Station.

Michael Cleveland won for top fiddle player and thanked his father, saying, "If it wasn't for him, I couldn't possibly do this."

Cleveland and his band Flamekeeper also won for instrumental group of the year.

AP

Jamie Dailey, left, hugs Darrin Vincent after they performed at the International Bluegrass Music Association awards in Nashville, Tenn., Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008.

Baby sitter gets scare of her life in late-night drive home

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: Please print this as a warning to other teenagers.

A couple from church asked me to baby-sit their three kids from 7:30 until 11 p.m. last weekend. My problems began when they didn't pick me up until 9.

When they didn't return at the time they had promised, I began to worry. When they finally showed up at 1 a.m., they dropped a measly $6 in my hand. Then the husband drove me home. He reeked of booze and swerved all over the road. It was the most terrifying ride of my life. I was shaking all over by the time we arrived.

The next day my dad called the police and told them the man had driven me home drunk. They said that if he had called the previous night, they'd have gone over and taken a Breathalyzer test, but they could do nothing after the fact.

My mom then called the woman, who swore her husband hadn't been drunk. When Mom asked her for my going rate ($3 an hour, plus double time after midnight, which would have been $15 or $19.50, if you count the time I was booked for), the woman hung up on her.

Some important lessons I learned that night:

1. Agree on the wage beforehand.

2. If the driver appears drunk (or stoned), call your parent, a friend or a taxi even if it costs you your wages to get home. NEVER get into a car with someone you think is impaired just to be polite.

3. Don't automatically trust someone because you go to the same church. Always get references and baby-sit only for people you know well.

WISER NOW IN CANADA

DEAR WISER NOW: That's excellent advice, and I hope my younger readers will take it to heart. Watching children is a heavy responsibility that requires maturity and judgment. It should be planned so that it's fun, fair and safe for everyone concerned.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 13-year-old brother, "Josh," is obese. He spends more than four hours a day playing video games or watching TV. He doesn't worry about what he eats and has low self-esteem.

I am active, and I changed my eating and exercise habits not only to benefit my health but also to be a role model for my younger siblings. When I offer to do fun activities with Josh—like playing football, basketball or taking our dog for a walk around the block—he tells me to go away and quit talking to him.

My parents say it isn't my problem and I should worry about my own life. Abby, I don't ever tell Josh he is heavy. I never tease him, and I don't nag him. I know it isn't my problem, but my parents don't give my brother any motivation, discipline or limit his TV time.

I want my brother to be happy. I don't want him to suffer. What should I do to help him? I have told him—and my parents—how I feel, but they don't seem to care.

HEALTHIER SIS IN HONOLULU

DEAR SIS: Part of the problem you're having getting through to your brother may be because you are so close to him, his tuning you out is reflexive. A better solution might be to talk to someone at his school about your concerns—a counselor or the school nurse.

It's not unheard of for a child who spends four hours a day alone, watching TV, playing video games and seeking comfort in food to have issues that go beyond the physical. Perhaps, if someone from the school talks to your parents, they might become more proactive in helping their son.

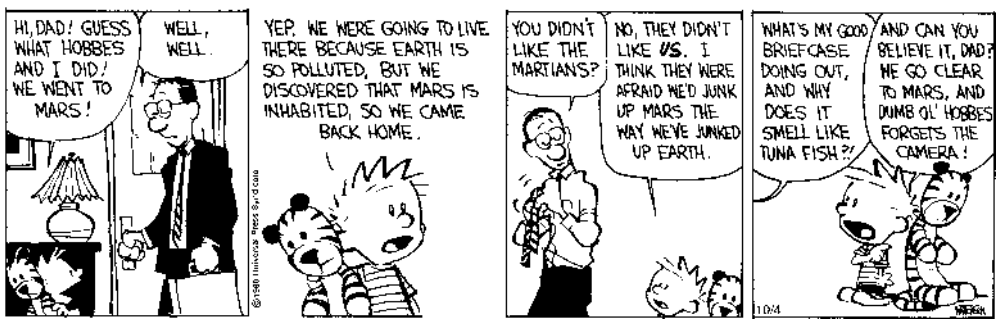
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, DAD! GUESS WHAT HOBBES AND I DID! WE WENT TO MARS!
WELL, WELL.
YEP. WE WERE GOING TO LIVE THERE BECAUSE EARTH IS SO POLLUTED, BUT WE DISCOVERED THAT MARS IS INHABITED, SO WE CAME BACK HOME.
YOU DIDN'T LIKE THE MARTIANS?
NO, THEY DIDN'T LIKE US. I THINK THEY WERE AFRAID WE'D JUNK UP MARS THE WAY WE'VE JUNKED UP EARTH.
WHAT'S MY GOOD BRIEFCASE DOING OUT, AND WHY DOES IT SMELL LIKE TUNA FISH?!
AND CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, DAD? WE GO CLEAR TO MARS, AND DUMB OL' HOBBES FORGETS THE CAMERA!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

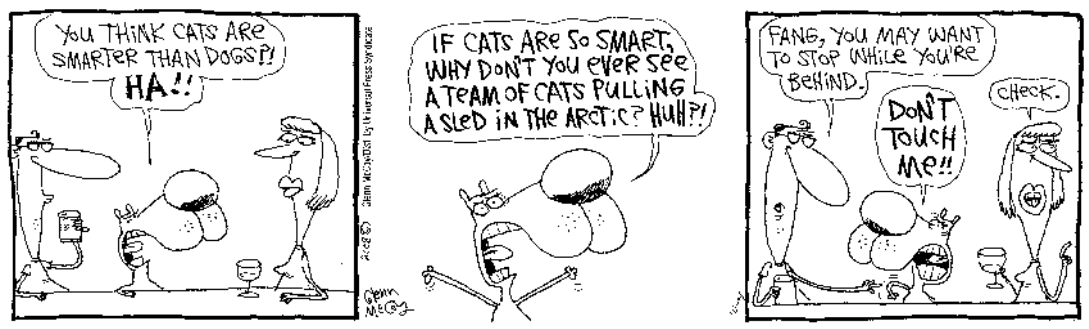
REMEMBER MY OLD GIRLFRIEND GRISELDA?
THE ONE WITH THE BULGING JAW MUSCLES?..
BOY, COULD SHE EVER PUT AWAY A RACK OF RIBS
WHY YOU LET HER GET AWAY, I WILL NEVER KNOW

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


YOU THINK CATS ARE SMARTER THAN DOGS?! HA!!
IF CATS ARE SO SMART, WHY DON'T YOU EVER SEE A TEAM OF CATS PULLING A SLED IN THE ARCTIC? HUH?!
FANG, YOU MAY WANT TO STOP WHILE YOU'RE BEHIND.
DON'T TOUCH ME!!
check.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

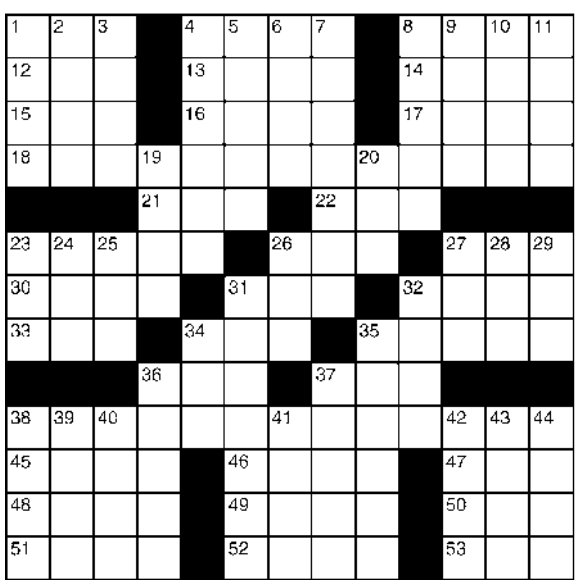
ACROSS
1 Tie up the phone
4 Somewhat wet
8 Pace
12 Be behind, in a way
13 Eastern potentate
14 Destroy
15 Head of st.
16 Relaxation
17 Aware of
18 38-Across won eight in '08
21 Osaka money
22 Harry's successor
23 Muslim spirit
26 Coloration
27 Margery of rhyme
30 PBS science show
31 America's uncle
32 Tragic
33 Whatever amount
34 Mensa stats
35 Picked a target
36 RV center?
37 After-hrs. bank
38 Mark Spitz's record-beater
45 Between tasks
46 Architect Saarinen
47 Hearty brew
48 Clarinet insert
49 Speed
50 Barbie's friend
51 Lummoxes
52 Slave to crosswords?
53 Nosh

DOWN
1 Boots style
2 Base escapee
3 Quail group
4 Dig further
5 Forcefully
6 Uncategorized (Abbr.)
7 Higher-priced
8 Leader
9 Karenina or Kournikova
10 "American —"
11 Oodles
19 Mimicking bird
20 Supplement, with "out"
23 "CSI" evidence
24 Garfield's owner
25 Wall climber
26 Possesses
27 Not well lit
28 "All the Things You —"
29 Marry
31 Wring
32 It ain't worth a nickel
34 Call — day
35 In
36 Molts
37 Cookwear?
38 Picasso contemporary
39 Concept
40 Staff leader?
41 Many summertime babies
42 Michigan, for one
43 Supplication
44 Faxed

Solution time: 27 mins.

I	M	P	■	E	M	U	■	T	A	P	I	R
D	E	L	■	L	A	N	■	A	L	O	N	E
E	T	A	■	B	I	C	Y	C	L	I	N	G
S	R	I	■	A	L	L	O	T	■	■	■	■
T	O	D	O	■	E	E	K	■	E	W	E	S
■	■	■	M	A	D	■	E	L	V	I	R	A
K	A	V	E	L	■	■	E	A	S	E	L	■
A	D	A	G	I	O	■	D	O	N	■	■	■
E	Z	R	A	■	P	S	I	■	S	W	I	G
■	■	■	S	A	U	N	A	■	R	N	A	■
R	E	C	Y	C	L	I	N	G	■	A	N	T
A	G	O	R	A	■	T	E	A	■	T	E	E
H	O	L	S	T	■	E	R	R	■	H	R	S

Yesterday's answer 10-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rachael Leigh Cook, 29; Alicia Silverstone, 32; Susan Sarandon, 62; Anne Rice, 67

Happy Birthday: Broaden your horizons this year. Travel, learning and interacting with groups and individuals will open your eyes to a host of new activities, concepts and lifestyles. Once you begin to plan your year, it will be easy for you to maintain the momentum. Activate the giant within and finish what you start. Your numbers are 9, 11, 13, 21, 28, 37, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get rid of the clutter in your life. Recycling will change your attitude and the way someone you love views you. Work well with others and you will receive something special. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Money may be an issue if you make a contribution to a cause you aren't sure about. Don't feel obligated to pay for someone else. A business trip will bring you the returns you are looking for. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Getting together with friends or a group that interests you will allow you to expand your knowledge and your friendships. You will be able to show off your talents. However, keep things in perspective and don't brag. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stay calm and refuse to let what others do upset you. You mustn't make a snap decision regarding your work. Your situation is changing rapidly and if you remain constant in the way you do things and present yourself, you will win in the end. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Push yourself to the limit and play to win. Don't let your aggressive, intense feelings be directed at someone you love when you can put yourself to the test and take on a competitor. Choose your battles wisely. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Much can be accomplished if you work in unison with someone who has the same goals. Problems at home will escalate if you let your heart rule your head. Stay calm and don't say anything you'll regret later. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Join forces with the people who have the same interests. A strong sense of belonging will help you see things more clearly. A short trip will keep your mind occupied and your imagination flowing. Adventure will lead to interesting encounters and new friendships. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep your money in a safe place. You may feel passionate about someone but, before you make your move, make sure that he or she feels the same way. A change in your social scene and plans is likely. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't forget about your goals because you are being pulled in so many different directions. Make your own choices. Emotions will escalate, leading to changes over which you will have no control. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Love is on the rise and a get-together that includes both business and personal friends will show you in a good light. Someone who is offering help may not be able to do as much for you as he or she promises. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Attend a lecture or demonstration that will enlighten you about something you may need for future reference. This is an ideal day to pick a direction and develop the skills required to follow a dream. Don't be fooled by someone you are smitten with. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Ideally, you want people to come to you, so you don't appear too anxious. Your emotional responses will be difficult to control. You can expect to be asked pertinent questions, so be prepared to give practical, reassuring answers. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, overstated and know how to get others to do things for you. You like things to be done on your terms and conditions. You like to set the standard.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8								1
	9						7	
5			2		4			3
7		8				3		9
				8				
4		3				5		6
6			9		7			5
	2						6	
3								8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	4	6	9	1	7	2	8	5
9	5	2	4	8	6	3	7	1
8	1	7	3	5	2	9	6	4
5	8	1	6	2	4	7	3	9
4	2	3	7	9	5	8	1	6
6	7	9	8	3	1	5	4	2
2	9	4	1	7	3	6	5	8
7	6	5	2	4	8	1	9	3
1	3	8	5	6	9	4	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/04

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PAKISTAN'S NANGA PARBAT — **Solution: 8 letters**

E	S	N	E	M	M	I	C	I	T	S	E	J	A	M
S	C	A	R	E	S	S	U	O	D	R	A	Z	A	H
T	E	E	X	P	E	D	I	T	I	O	N	S	P	A
R	N	G	M	I	L	E	S	W	E	I	S	U	A	V
U	E	N	A	G	S	N	L	G	O	I	B	O	M	A
C	R	I	S	L	N	L	D	C	V	N	A	R	A	L
T	I	T	T	A	L	I	O	E	A	N	S	U	R	A
U	E	A	R	T	R	I	G	(P)	F	T	E	T	O	N
R	S	D	O	B	A	C	V	N	(E)	R	C	N	N	C
E	E	I	S	O	K	I	F	E	E	(A)	I	E	A	H
G	R	M	E	E	E	A	P	R	T	L	(K)	V	P	E
R	U	I	R	W	C	A	M	P	A	E	L	D	E	S
O	T	T	T	E	R	R	A	I	N	N	G	A	L	R
G	A	N	S	T	S	I	R	U	O	T	G	U	H	E
G	N	I	R	E	W	O	T	T	H	G	I	E	H	C

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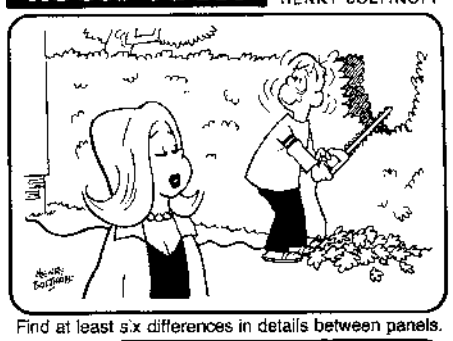
Adventurous, Avalanches, Base, Camp, Challenging, Expeditions, Faces, Feet, Gorge, Hazardous, Height, Huge, Immense, Intimidating, Latbo, Majestic, Massive, Miles, Nature, Panorama, Peak, Range, Resorts, Ridge, River, Sceneries, Seracs, Slope, Snow, Spectacle, Steep, Structure, Terrain, Tourists, Towering, Trek, View, Village

Yesterday's Answer: Reporter

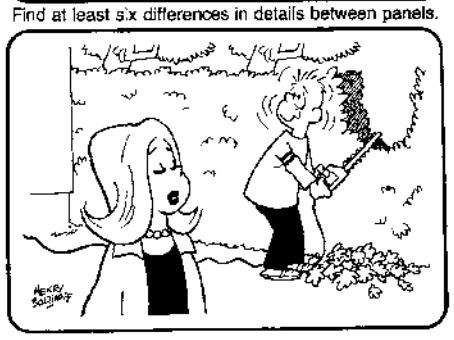
Welcome to hyperspace! TREASURY Stretch to your Wonderword potential and jump to 5G! Explorers rank: Out of bounds: Inside scientific community: Orbit of 5000 electrons: 3.5 on the Richter scale: U.S. federal prison for life: Volume 9 DC: Zero in the satellite countdown: Wonderword. Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64111. e-mail address: help@wonderword.com Send comments & questions to:

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Tree is added. 2. Saw blade is shorter. 3. Bricks are missing. 4. Dress's neckline is different. 5. House is wider. 6. Man's hair is different.

Wishing Well®

8	7	2	5	8	2	6	2	5	4	5	7	2
P	A	L	S	R	I	A	N	P	O	R	D	G
6	5	3	8	3	2	5	2	8	6	5	4	6
C	E	B	O	E	E	A	R	P	T	D	U	U
4	6	7	6	7	5	3	4	2	3	5	6	5
T	P	V	O	I	J	S	L	A	Y	O	N	Y
2	3	4	7	4	8	4	6	8	4	3	8	6
W	M	O	S	O	H	K	I	E	I	P	T	L
3	2	8	3	8	4	6	7	4	2	8	4	2
A	H	I	T	C	S	L	E	B	I	D	R	L
3	6	8	6	3	2	4	8	4	3	7	6	3
H	U	R	S	E	E	I	E	G	T	O	I	I
7	3	7	8	4	7	6	4	6	8	7	8	7
T	C	H	A	H	E	O	T	N	M	R	S	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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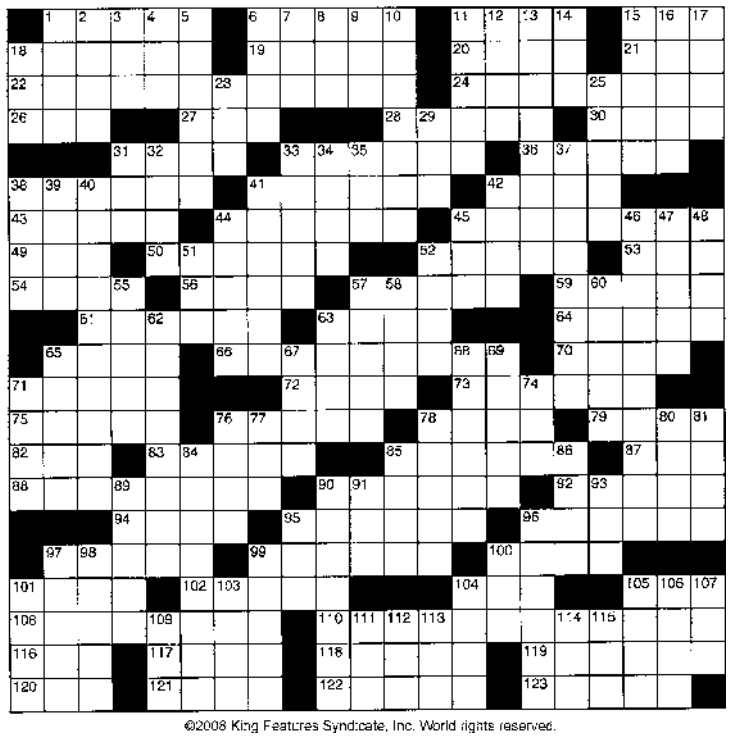
Super Crossword

Everybody's Irish

ACROSS
1 Auctioneer's item
6 Column style
11 Tiff
15 Wallace or Ayres
18 Revenue
19 Ann —, MI
20 Well-ventilated
21 Have bills
22 Irish mobster?
24 Irish singer?
26 Fluffy female
27 — contact
28 Frighten
30 Corduroy ridge
31 Sean of "Colors"
33 Covered thickly
36 In any way
38 Furnish
41 "The Dating Game" producer
42 Young follower?
43 "Rigoletto" composer
44 Adams' apparatus
45 Home wreckers?
49 "Make — double!"
50 Last name in fashion
52 Diva Leontyne
53 "...been had!"
54 Baseball's Bucky
56 Evangelist Roberts
57 Sag
59 Bottled spirits?
61 Box
63 Kind of carpet
64 Fit for a king
65 Easy stride
66 Irish explorer?
70 "East of Eden" character
71 Dancer Gregory
72 They may be wild
73 Porthos' pal
75 Turn inside out
76 Cremona craftsman
78 Clarinetist Artie
79 School founded in 1440
82 Always, to Auden
83 Less available
85 Bartlett bits
87 Space —
88 Ally Walker series
90 Country gentleman
92 — cotta
94 Bruins' sch.
95 Compare
96 Castle feature
97 Greek island
99 Celtic cultists
100 Sociable starling
101 Bluenose
102 Actress Davis
104 Rainbow shape
105 Scholastic abbr.
108 Irish composer?
110 Irish boxer?
116 Infamous Amin
117 Chip off Woody's block
118 Carve a canyon
119 Ill-tempered
120 Rock's — Zeppelin
121 AMEX rival
122 Impressionist painter
123 Elbow

DOWN
1 Tackle a bone
2 Lot size
3 Cubic meas.
4 Phillips of "UHF"
5 Saga
6 Knight's wife
7 Planet, for one
8 McGwire stat
9 Noun suffix
10 Balkan area
11 Bar food?
12 Wharf
13 Like potpourri
14 Cobb and Hardin
15 True-blue
16 Tom of "Adam's Rib"
17 "You — on My Mind" ('65 hit)
18 Complete the cake
23 Writer Rand
25 Oscar or Tony
29 Meyerbeer's "— Huguenots"
31 Seal school
32 Author Ambler
33 Sahara sight
34 Turgenev's birthplace
35 O'Hare info
37 Wire
38 Fired up
39 Jubilee
40 Irish actor?
41 Bite for Bonzo
42 Freighter or ferry
44 Pool shot
45 — -Magnon
46 Irish musician?
47 European health resort
48 — Patrick Harris
51 Torrid
52 Kelly's possum
55 Candle
57 Delhi wrap
58 Shoots the breeze
60 A la King?
62 Curb
63 "Git, Garfield!"
65 Bile producer
67 Circus sound
68 City in Pakistan
69 Talk really big
71 Dickens villain
74 Veneration
76 — code
77 Sea, to Seurat
78 Decks have four
80 Grimm creature
81 Tidy
84 Extended metaphor
85 College courtyard
86 Amaze
89 Tierra del —
90 Multiplied 2 X 2
91 On the — vive
93 Significant years
95 Directional suffix
96 Industrialist
97 — oil
98 Unbending
99 Crusoe's creator
100 "The A-Team" actor
101 Skier Mahre
103 Architectural features
104 Aphrodite's lover
105 Evigan or Gumbel
106 Unwind a rind
107 Some
109 Ashen
111 Northwestern st.
112 Marsh
113 Author LeShan
114 Joanne of "Red River"
115 Sturm — Drang



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: Who was executive producer of the "Animaniacs" television cartoon show?
2. MOVIES: Which Jon Voight/Dustin Hoffman film won Best Picture in 1969?
3. MUSIC: Who sang the following pop lyrics: "Sendin' out the message to all of my friends, we'll be looking flashy in my Mercedes Benz"?
4. GAMES: How many dominoes are in a standard set?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Blarney Stone located?
6. POLITICS: In what year did a Republican run for president on the slogan, "A chicken in every pot; a car in every garage."
7. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who said, "The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."
8. MYTHOLOGY: According to some accounts, what was the last name of the legendary King Arthur?
9. COMPUTERS: What does the acronym JPEG stand for?
10. LITERATURE: In which novel does the character of Madame Thérèse Defarge appear?

Answers

1. Steven Spielberg
2. "Midnight Cowboy"
3. Pink, "Get the Party Started"
4. 28
5. Blarney Castle, Cork, Ireland
6. 1928, Herbert Hoover
7. Aristotle
8. Pendragon
9. Joint Photographic Experts Group
10. "A Tale of Two Cities," Charles Dickens

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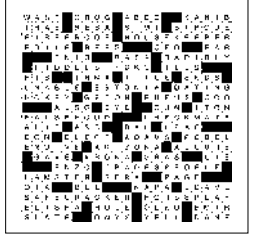
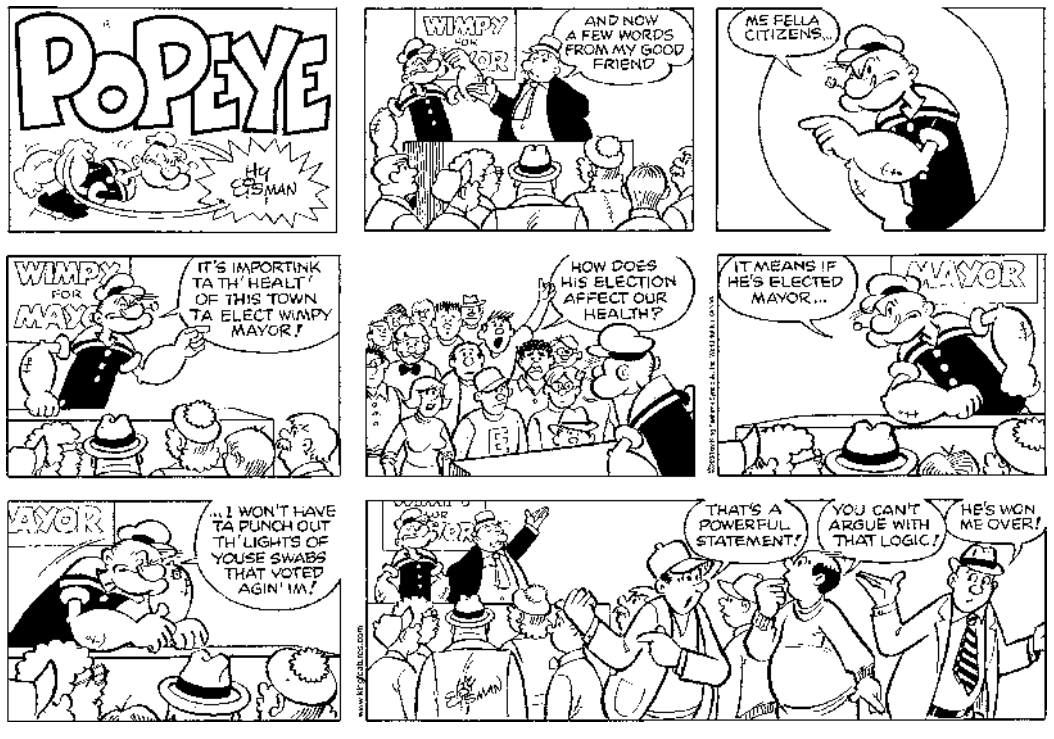
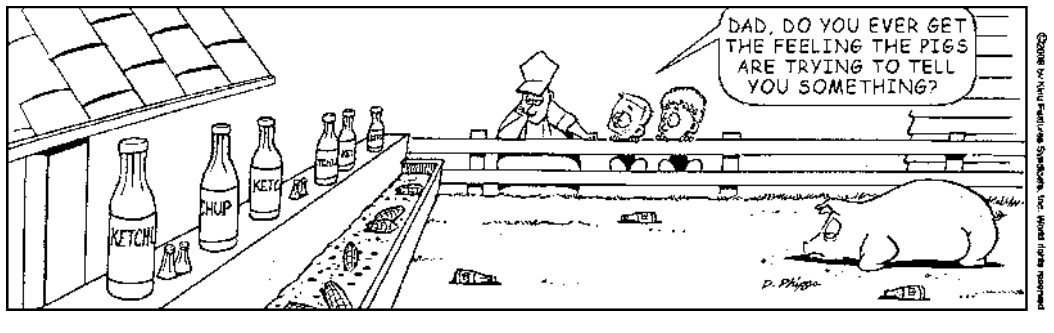
Saturday's Answers

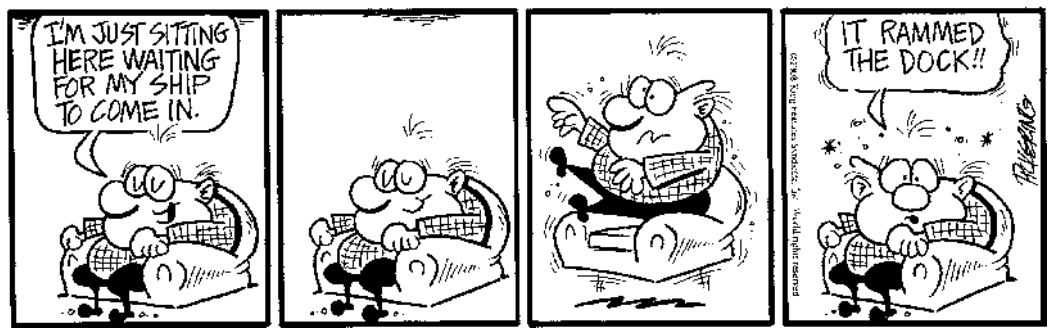



POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
WIMPY FOR MAYOR
AND NOW A FEW WORDS FROM MY GOOD FRIEND
ME FELLA CITIZENS...
IT'S IMPORTINK TA TH' HEALT' OF THIS TOWN TA ELECT WIMPY MAYOR!
HOW DOES HIS ELECTION AFFECT OUR HEALTH?
IT MEANS IF HE'S ELECTED MAYOR...
MAYOR
...I WON'T HAVE TA PUNCH OUT TH' LIGHTS OF YOUSE SWABS THAT VOTED AGIN' IM!
THAT'S A POWERFUL STATEMENT!
YOU CAN'T ARGUE WITH THAT LOGIC!
HE'S WON ME OVER!

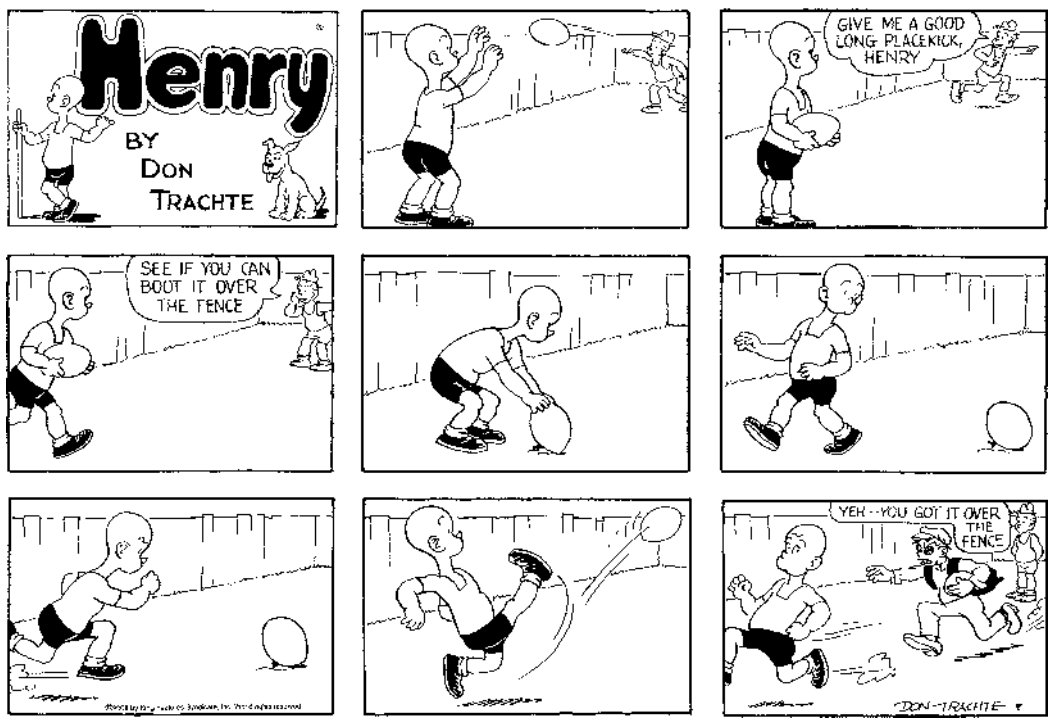
Amber Waves by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats by Jeff Pickering



MARK TRAIL
THE THREE SPECIES OF SCREAMERS—THE HORNED, CRESTED AND BLACK-NECK VARIETIES—ARE VEGETARIANS, FEEDING LARGELY ON GRASS, SEED AND WATER PLANTS
THEY ARE ODD-LOOKING BIRDS RELATED TO DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS EXCEPT THEY HAVE LONGER LEGS, SMALLER WEBS BETWEEN THEIR TOES AND CHICKEN-LIKE BEAKS
THE SCREAMER IS ONE OF THE NOISIEST BIRDS IN SOUTH AMERICA AND ITS VOICE OFTEN WARNS OTHERS OF DANGER
HAUNTING TROPICAL MARSHES AND LAGOONS, THIS TURKEY-SIZED BIRD IS BOTH AN ADEPT SWIMMER AND A STRONG FLIER
FEW PREDATORS ARE WILLING TO TANGLE WITH IT, FOR ON THE LEADING EDGE OF ITS POWERFUL WINGS ARE TWO DAGGER-LIKE SPURS...
WITH WHICH IT CAN DISABLE ANY CREATURE FOOLISH ENOUGH TO TEST ITS FIGHTING ABILITY
IN FACT, THE NATIVES OF THE REGION WISELY RAISE THE SCREAMER IN CAPTIVITY TO GUARD THEIR POULTRY FROM PREDATORS
JACK ELROD


Henry
BY DON TRACHTE
GIVE ME A GOOD LONG PLACEKICK, HENRY
SEE IF YOU CAN BOOT IT OVER THE FENCE
YEH--YOU GOT IT OVER THE FENCE
DON TRACHTE

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Customers First
TRIPLE J

General Manager
Retail / Wholesale Operations

Triple J is looking to hire a General Manager for its retail and wholesale grocery operations in Micronesia.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Candidate must be a self starter, qualified and able to assume the General Manager's position.
- Candidate should have a minimum of 7 years profitable experience in retail/wholesale sales management, with grocery experience preferred. Sucessful management experience in other retail industries will be considered.
- Candidate must have strong communication skills in English, both oral & written.
- Candidate must be in good health & willing to accept a minimum of 2 year contract.
- Candidate must be computer literate and proficient in Excel, Word, Outlook, etc.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Plans, develops and implements organization strategies and goals.
- Manages assets (inventory/receivables/cash) to assure best ROI to shareholders.
- Directs and coordinates promotion of products or services performed to develop new markets, increase share of market, and obtain competitive position in the industry.
- Analyzes division or department budget requests to identify areas in which changes can be made to improve operating profit.
- Confers with personnel and reviews activity, operating and sales reports to determine changes in programs or operations required.
- Directs division or department managers, supervisors operations and changes to be implemented.
- Promotes organization in industry or other associations.

Competitive Salary and Benefit Package Offered. Salary Commensurate with Experience.

Please submit resume by way of postal delivery, facsimile or e-mail to the attention of the Director of Human Resources.

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Email: hrdirector@triplejsaipan.com

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4-BR, 3-bath, 2-car garage house w/ outside kitchen in As Teo. Beautiful view and balcony, w/ water tank. $1,500mo. Sec. deposit required. Call 483-3848/ email:geri670@gmail.com for more info.

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235-NEWS

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, has a full-time position vacancy for a Receptionist / Collections Assistant. The successful candidate must be a US citizen or IR, be a high school graduate, and have good English language and bookkeeping skills. Duties will include greeting visitors to the Office, answering the telephone, assisting with the Firm's collections practice, and other related duties. The salary is competitive.

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Longoria's 2 homers lead Rays over White Sox

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—In their first ever playoff game, the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Chicago White Sox 6-4 on Thursday in the opener of their American League Division Series.

Evan Longoria homered in his first two at-bats as Tampa Bay rallied for an historic victory in the first of a best-of-five series.

After 10 seasons as baseball's doormat, Tampa Bay took the AL East division with the best home record in the majors. And there were no October jitters as the young Rays kept winning at Tropicana Field.

Game 2 is Friday in Florida, when Tampa Bay's starting pitcher Scott Kazmir faces Chicago's Mark Buehrle.

"We want to win both of them now. We have such an advantage at home," Longoria said.

Chicago made the playoffs by downing Minnesota in a one-game AL Central tiebreaker Tuesday, and took a 3-1 lead on outfielder Dewayne Wise's three-run homer in the third inning. But pitcher Javier Vazquez, who has a history of flopping in big games, could not hold that advantage.

Longoria, who became the second player to homer in his first two postseason at-bats, joining Gary Gaetti from 1987, started the year in the minor leagues before becoming an All-Star third baseman in the majors. He hit 27 homers despite missing 30 games with a broken right wrist.

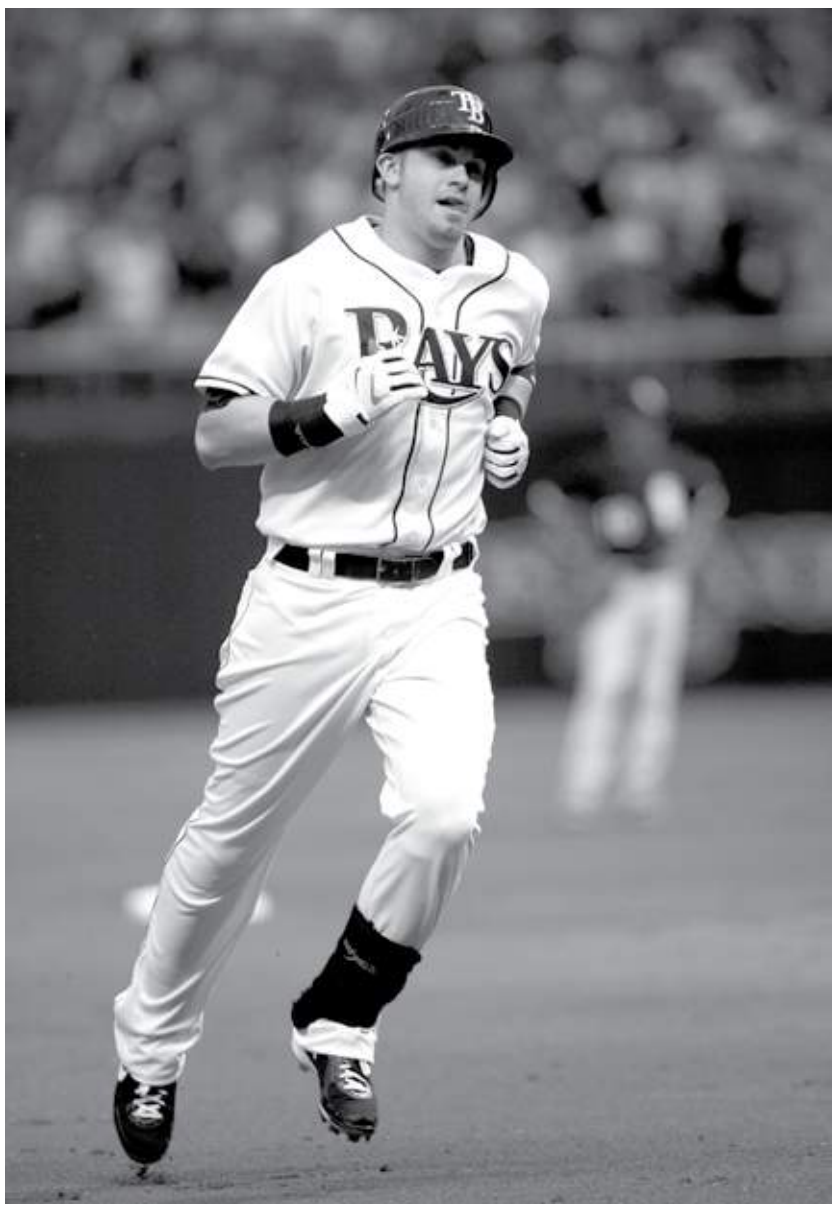
He homered on his very first postseason pitch, a leadoff drive in the second. He put Tampa Bay ahead 4-3 with another solo shot in the third, a homer off one of the infamous catwalks that support the roof at Tropicana.

He also had a RBI single and finished 3-for-3 with three RBIs.

The Rays led 6-3 in the seventh when the game got tense.

Tampa Bay's Grant Balfour relieved starting pitcher James Shields with the bases loaded and one out, and struck out Juan Uribe for the second out. Chicago shortsop Orlando Cabrera was up next, and he kicked dirt toward the mound and appeared to shout something at Balfour. The reliever walked toward the plate before being stopped by the umpire.

Balfour struck out Cabrera to end the inning, pumped his fist and pointed at the White Sox shortstop. The exchange also brought Rays manager Joe Maddon and bench coach Dave Martinez out of the dugout and more words were exchanged between Martinez and the White Sox bench.



AP

Tampa Bay Rays' Evan Longoria runs the bases after hitting a solo home run against the Chicago White Sox during second-inning baseball action in Game 1 of the American League division series, in St. Petersburg, Fla., Thursday Oct. 2, 2008.

Tampa Bay slugger Carlos Pena left the game after the second inning with slightly blurred vision in his left eye. The Rays said he accidentally scratched his eye at home Wednesday. He is expected to return to the lineup for Game 2.

Pena, who led the Rays with 31 homers and 102 RBIs this season, struck out in his only plate appearance in the first inning. Willy Aybar replaced him, and his sacrifice fly in the bottom of the third inning made it 3-3.

Longoria's RBI single in the fifth single made it 5-3 and ended Vazquez's afternoon. Vazquez allowed six runs in 4 1-3 innings—the fourth consecutive start, all losses, he's gone less than five innings.

Tampa Bay ranked near the bottom of the attendance charts this year, yet was cheered on Thursday by a sellout crowd of 35,041.

Dodgers 10, Cubs 3

At Chicago, the Chicago Cubs' championship drought looks like extending to 100 years after they fell to a 10-3 loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers on Thursday, making it two losses from two home games in the best-of-five National League Division Series.

The Philadelphia Phillies also took a 2-0 lead in their NLDS by beating the Milwaukee Brewers 5-2.

Manny Ramirez hit a mammoth homer for Los Angeles, while Russell Martin had a three-run double, and the Dodgers took advantage of four errors by the clumsy Cubs.

"It wasn't good baseball. In fact, the last two days, that's probably been the two worst games we've played all year," frustrated Chicago manager Lou Piniella said. "It wasn't fun to watch, I'll tell you that."

Chicago became the 23rd major league team to lose the first two games at home in a best-of-five playoff series, according to the Elias Sports Bureau, and only one has come back to win—the 2001 New York Yankees against Oakland.

The series switches to Dodger Stadium for Game 3 on Saturday. Chicago starting pitcher Rich Harden will face Hiroki Kuroda, who pitched a shutout against the Cubs in June.

Chicago is aiming for its first World Series title since 1908, but quickly finds itself on the brink of elimination. The Cubs, who have lost eight straight playoff games in all dating back to 2003, must win two consecutive games in Los Angeles to get the series back to Wrigley Field.

Ramirez's 26th postseason home run sailed at least 450 feet into center field. He capped his performance with an RBI singles in the Dodgers' two-run ninth.

On defense, the Cubs collapsed. All four infielders made an error, including two in the second that led to a five-run inning for Los Angeles. Martin got a three-run double in that inning. The four errors by Chicago tied a division series record.

Phillies 5, Brewers 2

At Philadelphia, a Shane Victorino grand-slam moved the Phillies within a win of reaching the NL Championship Series for the first time in 15 years.

Philadelphia pitcher Brett Myers dominated the Brewers batters, allowing just two hits in seven innings.

Milwaukee starter C.C. Sabathia, pitching on three days' rest for the fourth consecutive start, had his worst outing since joining the Brewers in a mid-season trade from Cleveland. The burly left-hander allowed five runs in 3 2-3 innings. He walked four, his second-highest total of the season.

Sabathia might have to wait six months for his next start, and that might be in a different uniform. The 28-year-old will be one of the most sought-after free agents at the end of the season.

Sabathia was 11-2 with a 1.65 ERA in 17 starts for Milwaukee, almost single-handedly leading the Brewers to their first postseason berth since 1982. But he struggled in the playoffs—again. He's lost his last three postseason starts, including two against Boston in last year's ALCS. Overall, Sabathia is 2-3 with a 7.92 ERA in the playoffs.

He was uncharacteristically erratic in the second inning as the Phillies broke the game open.

With the game tied 1-1 and bases loaded, Victorino smashed a shot into the seats in left to give the Phillies a 5-1 lead.

"He threw me a slider," Victorino said. "He provided most of the power but I put a good swing on it and it left the park."

The Brewers missed an opportunity to take control of the game in the first inning after Myers walked in a run with one out. The Phillies pitcher then induced Corey Hart to hit into a double play to end the inning.

Game 3 is Saturday in Milwaukee, with 45-year-old Jamie Moyer pitching for the Phillies against Milwaukee's Dave Bush.

MLB BRIEFS

Josh Beckett throws side session on off day

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Boston pitcher Josh Beckett threw a side session Thursday during an off-day in the Red Sox-Angels playoff series, and remains scheduled to start Game 3 Sunday in Boston. Beckett, originally scheduled to start Game 1, injured a muscle in his side last Friday during a bullpen session. "He ended up with 67 pitches, which is a pretty aggressive side, but I think we probably needed to do that," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "We'll monitor him as we go, but the medical people were out there and I think we were very pleased with the way things went." The Red Sox lead the series 1-0 going into Friday night's game in Anaheim.

GM Omar Minaya given deal through 2012 by Mets

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Mets have given general manager Omar Minaya a new contract that runs through the 2012 season. The deal contains club options covering 2013 and 2014. Minaya became general manager in 2004 and was signed to a five-year deal. The Mets made it to Game 7 of the NL championship series in 2006 but were eliminated from postseason contention on the last day of the regular season in 2007 and this year. The Mets next will probably turn their attention to a contract for Jerry Manuel, who became interim manager in June when Willie Randolph was fired.

Bills sign receiver Lee Evans to four-year $37 million extension

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Having stuck it out through the tough times in Buffalo, receiver Lee Evans had no intention of leaving now that the Bills have begun to turn the corner with their fast start.

Looks like Evans will be around for quite a while longer after Thursday, when he signed a four-year, $37.25 million contract extension that locks him up through 2012 and prevents the Bills from losing him to free agency this offseason.

Under terms of the deal, Evans is guaranteed $18.25 million, representing a significant raise over the $2.25 million base salary he'll make this season, the final year of the rookie contract.

"It's really hard to put into words. I'm very excited," Evans told The Associated Press. "I really wanted to stay here. We have a great group of guys and a great organization to be a part of."

The deal is a renewed indication of the Bills' commitment to securing their core stars, and was struck at a time when AFC East-leading Buffalo (4-0) is off to its best start in 16 years in an attempt to end an eight-year playoff drought, the longest in franchise history.

The Bills were not available for comment except to announce the contract in a press release issued hours after the team completed practice in preparing for Sunday's game at Arizona. The Bills had previously maintained that re-signing Evans was their top priority this year.

The Bills 2004 first-round pick out of Wisconsin, Evans had enjoyed only one winning season in Buffalo, his first, when the Bills finished 9-7 but missed the playoffs with a season-ending loss to Pittsburgh.

And yet, he was so eager to stay in Buffalo that he refused to establish a deadline even as negotiations dragged on into the season. Evans also shrugged off speculation that he had the opportunity to cash in as one of the NFL's more high-profile free agents this offseason or, at the very least, force the Bills to retain his rights for one more year by designating him as their franchise player.

"It took a lot of patience on both sides," Evans said, in regards to talks which opened last spring. "But they were men of their words. They told me they were going to get this deal done and that's what happened."

Evans certainly didn't play as if he was distracted because he's off to the hottest start of his career this season with 14 catches, a team-leading 332 yards receiving and one touchdown. He ranks second among AFC receivers in yards and has six catches of 25 yards or longer, tying Green Bay's Greg Jennings for most in the NFL.

Evans already ranks seventh on the Bills' career list with 4,059 yards receiving, and fifth with 30 career touchdowns receiving.

His best season came in 2006, when he finished sixth in the NFL with 1,292 yards receiving. Evans' production, though, tailed off last year when he finished with 849 yards and a career low five touchdowns.

The drop in numbers were in part a reflection of the Bills' carousel at quarterback. Starter J.P. Losman was benched twice and eventually lost the job for good to current starter Trent Edwards last November. It didn't help that Buffalo also lacked a secondary receiving threat to draw attention away from Evans.

Jeff Overton takes lead at Turning Stone

VERONA, N.Y. (AP)—The sky cleared just in time for Jeff Overton.

Teeing off on what became a bright late afternoon after a cold, soggy morning, Overton shot a 5-under 67 on Thursday to take the first-round lead at the Turning Stone Resort Championship, the second stop on the PGA Tour's Fall Series.

Overton, who started at the 10th hole, made three birdies on the front side to take a one-shot lead over Michael Allen and Steve Allan.

Tag Ridings, Carlos Franco, and Jason Day were tied for fourth at 69. Another shot back were Briny Baird, Bo Van Pelt, Kent Jones, Mark Hensby, Tommy Gainey, Sterling Scott, Paul Claxton and Troy Matteson, who had a bogey-free round.

Defending Turning Stone champ Steve Flesch, a black knit cap pulled tightly over his ears in brisk conditions that never rose much above 50 degrees, shot a 74.

The inaugural Turning Stone Championship last September was played under near ideal conditions with little wind and temperatures in the 80s. At the start of play Thursday, it was 48 degrees with intermittent rain and a steady 20 mph wind, a day to watch Canada geese fly south, not little white balls soaring where they weren't meant to go. Only 27 players broke par.

"It can tire you out, and it'll get you towards the end of the round," said Ridings, who teed off in early morning. "I think it helps more than anything starting the round. You get rid of jitters and you get rid of wayward thoughts because you have to concentrate on that stuff."

When the sun broke through, it made playing more bearable.

AP

Jeff Overton lines up his putt on the ninth green during the first round of the Turning Stone Resort Championship golf tournament in Verona, N.Y., Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008.

"My last six holes, it definitely played a little bit easier," said the 25-year-old Overton. "The morning was so nasty. The wind was just howling."

Allen, who finished second to Flesch last year, finished his round wearing a golf shirt and was smiling despite having left 100-degree weather at his Arizona home to come to upstate New York.

The conditions made the 7,482-yard Atunyote Golf Club course play much longer and promised to make it difficult to match Flesch's winning total of 18 under in 2007. "It's totally different," Allen said. "It's playing a lot more difficult."

The adverse conditions didn't prevent some great shots, though. Day holed out from 117 yards for eagle at the par-4 14th hole, Franco chipped in from 20 feet for eagle at the par-5 fifth hole and also drained a 70-foot birdie putt at the par-3 sixth hole, and Van Pelt hit a hybrid from 235 yards to 15 feet and also made eagle at No. 5.

"Wow, this is tough talking because I can't believe I shot 3 under," said the 43-year-old Franco, who birdied three of the four par 3s. "The day's conditions are really, really difficult. Every shot is difficult. It's cold and your hands, you lose the feeling, and the wind, it didn't stop, then it rain and stop and rain and stop. That's very difficult to focus."

Despite the inclement weather, the greens remained firm, perfectly smooth and lightning quick.

"I mean, I was pretty lucky," said Allan, who had five birdies to go with one bogey. "One of my birdies I was actually in the trees. I had a go at getting it through the tree, which got it on the green, and then holed a really long, like probably a 70-footer, which was the first birdie of day. That kind of got me going."

Of the leaders, Van Pelt might have been wearing the biggest smile. A former star in college at Oklahoma State, he was well-versed in playing in difficult conditions.

"I like it when it's windy. The tougher the better," Van Pelt said. "We had plenty of days like this in Stillwater. You knew it was going to be bad for everybody, so you just try to have a good attitude.

"But it wasn't easy. It was pretty darn cold and nasty this morning. I don't think anybody's got an advantage. I think the best advantage you have is if you've got a good attitude. You get a bad attitude in weather like this, and you might as well just go home."

Home is where Brad Faxon has been for more than a year, and he could have picked a different tournament to start his comeback from surgery on his right knee last December. But Turning Stone is within driving distance of his Rhode Island home, and he was glad he made the trip, even after shooting a 76.

"It's hard to stay focused," said Faxon, who still has trouble squatting to line up putts. "I'm still a little bit timid, don't think I'm swinging as hard as I can. But I thought today was OK. It's a good story just getting back and playing 18 holes."

The top 125 players on the money list at the end of the season will retain fully exempt status to play on the PGA Tour in 2009.

That makes this event, the richest in the Fall Series with a $6 million purse, oh-so-meaningful. Day is ranked 129th in money with just under $600,000, three spots ahead of Allen, Overton is 142nd, Ridings 152nd, Franco 163rd, Hensby 164th, Allan 167th, and Jones 185th. First place pays $1.08 million, which would vault the 20-year-old Day near the top 50 and the others inside the top 100.

"You get to this point in the season, you've got to play well," Allen said. "Your job's on the line.

Refs report finds only Donaghy committed crimes

NEW YORK (AP)—David Stern responded to a report on NBA referees Thursday by vowing to build the "most effective possible system" to monitor illegal gambling and preserve the game's integrity.

The commissioner ordered the investigation last August after former referee Tim Donaghy was accused of betting on games he officiated and providing inside information to gambling associates to win their bets. Donaghy began serving a 15-month sentence on Sept. 23 at a federal prison in Pensacola, Fla.

Stern promised to implement all the recommendations included in former federal prosecutor Lawrence Pedowitz's review of the NBA's referees operations department, the result of a 14-month probe that cost the league several million dollars.

"We will be up there with the very best. No one will have a better system than we do," Stern said on a conference call. "But all of that said, to the idea that, you know, criminal activity will exist every place else in the world except in sports is just something that we can't guarantee. But we're going to have the most effective possible system that's ever been devised."

The report recommended it include: a hot line to anonymously raise questions about gambling and game integrity issues; making available any complaints the league receives about refs—beginning in the 2008-09 playoffs—to both teams to avoid suspicions of bias; requiring officials to annually report their contacts among players and team personnel to the league so it can monitor fraternization.

The league already has made a number of changes, including restructuring its referees operations department and began posting officiating assignments the morning of games.

The report also suggests mandatory gambling education for players.

"We believe that gambling can expose the players and the league to significant risks, and therefore it is important that players be educated regarding those risks," the report said.

The 116-page document disputed Donaghy's allegations of specific misconduct and favoritism toward certain players and teams, but warned "because the potential for referee bias remains a threat to the integrity of the game, the league can do more."

It agreed with the federal government that there was no evidence Donaghy made any calls to affect the outcome of games after studying his work in 17 of them, including 16 during the 2006-07 in which it was believed Donaghy made picks.

It also backed the government's stance that referee Scott Foster wasn't involved in any of Donaghy's misconduct. Donaghy called Foster 134 times from October 2006-April 2007, but the FBI and Pedowitz were satisfied that Foster's description of their relationship as longtime friends provided a reasonable explanation for the calls.

"The report speaks for itself," said Lamell McMorris, spokesman for the referees' union.

Boston Celtics players Paul Pierce and Ray Allen endorsed the recommended mandatory gambling education.

"Throughout the years we have a number of different meetings. ... A gambling meeting wouldn't hurt," Allen said from training camp in Newport, R.I. "I think its just as important to educate the guys to make sure they don't give money away that you've worked hard for and you want to continue to work hard for. The education would definitely help."

Pedowitz said that if he owned a team, he wouldn't even want his players taking part in card games on the team plane.

"The sickness of compulsive gambling can affect many people," Pedowitz said. "We have a concern that the culture of the NBA ought to be a disciplined one. So we worry about players."

New York Knicks guard Jamal Crawford said he didn't think gambling was a problem in the league.

"No, I don't think a lot of players gamble, if any," Crawford said. "We're pretty aware of it, but a class wouldn't hurt at all."

Stern wants to be sure players realize the dangers of being involved with people connected to gambling, as Donaghy was.

"It's really about who they are with and what information they give, because gamblers are always looking for an edge," Stern said. "And that's the concern that we have begun to address in rookies and we'll do more of with respect to players."

Stern already was aware through Pedowitz's interviews that nearly all his referees had violated some form of the gambling rules, though none of their activities reached the criminal level.

Referees are now allowed in the offseason to bet at a race track, off-track betting establishment or a casino—though still not the sports book. However, a referee must notify the league's security department within 24 hours of placing such a bet.

Stern has asked Pedowitz to review the new program at the end of the season.

Army Major General (Ret.) Ronald L. Johnson, who served 32 years in the Army, was hired over the summer as senior vice president, referee operations in response to the investigation. Longtime ref Bernie Fryer became the NBA's vice president and director of officials, and Joe Borgia was appointed vice president of referee operations.

On Thursday, Pedowitz praised the choice of Johnson, who will address the complaints teams have about the performance—and in some cases, perceived bias—of certain officials.

"It's clearly an issue if the teams have a perception," Pedowitz said. "If it's there, it should be dealt with."

The report found no evidence to back Donaghy's accusations that specific games were manipulated, including playoff series in 2002 and 2005. His attorney alleged in June that the league assigned refs to work Game 6 of the 2002 Western Conference finals who would make calls ensuring the Los Angeles Lakers would beat Sacramento, extending the series to a seventh game and improving the TV ratings.

While saying it was "clearly not a well-refereed game," Pedowitz said it was called legally, and former Kings coach Rick Adelman agreed.

"I don't know who's evaluating calls or anything else. I said the same thing at the time and I'll say it today, the game was officiated differently in Games 6 and 7 than it was the first five. I said that at time and I believed that. That's not unusual," said Adelman, now coaching Houston. "I don't think they were manipulating anything. I don't think things were really perfect, either."

Sakudi, Hitters favored in BASA women's playoffs

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Sakudi and the Hitters, the two top teams in the women's division of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-pitch League, will face separate foes in the start of playoffs tomorrow, Oct. 5, at the Dandan Ballfield.

Both teams closed out the regular season with similar 8-1 win-loss records.

Sakudi will be a top favorite when it faces fifth-ranked Atu'Asi in the opener of a five-game schedule, including three crucial match-ups in the men's division.

Game time is set at 10am.

Sakudi is bannered by the season's top two batting leaders Pauline Tudela and Bert Camacho and No. 1 pitcher Bego Camacho.

Tudela, averaged .625 after the regular season to lead five other team mates who were included in the Top 10. The others were No. 2 Bert Camacho (.600), No. 5 Lenise Kapileo (.579), No. 6 Jenny Palacios (.536), and No. 8 Erica Tenorio (.524).

Sakudi has also two of the best pitchers in the league with Bego Camacho topping the list after the regular season with her 2.15 ERA, while Charlene Cabrera was fifth with 4.03 ERA.

Atu'Asi, which is at the bottom of the five-team field league with its 2-7 record after the regular season, will be led by Kuki Pangelinan in offense and pitcher Meng Yamada, who was the leader in strikeouts.

Pangelinan was third in batting average with her .600, hitting 15 of 25 at bat while Yamada was sixth place with 13.32 ERA.

In the other exciting match-up, the Hitters will meet third-ranked Ohn Sakau at 1pm.

Despite not having any player in the list of the Top 10 batting leaders, the Hitters will lean on pitcher Felisa Brel and try to keep their winning form against the third-ranked Ohn Sakau, who finished with 4-5 after the regular season.

Brel was No. 2 this season with her 3.50 ERA.

Pitching for Ohn Sakau is Dolorina Panuelo, who was fourth with her 4.27 ERA, and the team hopes to get the able support in offense from Merselyn Santos, Semerina Simram, and Roquita Norita.

Santos, who was fourth in batting average with .600, was co-leader with Norita in most RBIs after they finished with 11.

Games in the men's side will feature Man Amigos against SaiPal at 11am, while Choll Aces will face Ready Mix at 12pm and pacesetter Brotherhood will battle Man Amigos at 2pm.

Meanwhile, all the players are invited to join the celebration of Palau Independence Day today, Oct. 4, at Micro Beach.

The celebration is organized by the Palau Community Association on Saipan headed by its president Rufino Aguon.

The Republic of Palau gained independence in Oct. 1, 1994 as the people voted for a Compact of Free Association with the United States.

THEA

From Page 28

via a hard-earned 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 win against Trimari Assya.

In the semifinals, the CNMI netter dueled teammate Shannon, who had to bleed for points before beating Minor in the first set, 7-5. Shannon foiled Minor's finals bid with a 6-1 victory in the second set.

A semis finish in the 13-14 age group moved Minor five notches higher in the seedings for the Dames division (17-18 age group).

A much younger and smaller Minor was not intimidated by her taller and beefier foe, shutting out New Caledonia's Zoe Letournelx, 6-0, 6-0.

In the semis, Minor was paired opposite another teammate, Apisah, who easily beat the CNMI netter in the first set, 6-1. But Minor refused to wave the white flag early, as she gave Apisah a run for her money before losing the second set, 6-7.

Minor was off-island for almost a month and returned to Saipan two weeks ago. She was also in Fiji in August and finished third in the girls' 13-and-under age group.

The Grace Christian Academy is now preparing for tournaments in New Zealand in December.

DE LA HOYA

From Page 28

Hoya said on Wednesday, shading his eyes in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty. "I'm going to ride the wave for a little while."

De La Hoya broke box office and pay-per-view records with his narrow loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. last year, and U.S. boxing's most bankable star said that fight proved he could still compete at an elite level.

Perhaps stung by the disappointment, De La Hoya announced he would retire after this year and focus on his many business interests. But almost immediately he had reservations, especially when it seemed that every new champion from welterweight on up wanted a crack at him.

"Let's say I retired after the Mayweather fight. I would have come back. There's no doubt about it," De La Hoya said. "I'm definitely going to fight after this."

That doesn't mean De La Hoya is overlooking Pacquiao. Figuratively, at least.

The 10-time champion will be coming down to 147 pounds (67 kilograms) for the first time since beating Arturo Gatti more than eight years ago. Accustomed to being the smaller fighter, for once it was De La Hoya (39-5, 30 KOs) who towered over his opponent when they stood face-to-face on a platform with the skyline of lower Manhattan in the background.

Pacquiao (47-3-2, 35 KOs), considered the current pound-for-pound king, is only six months removed from fighting Juan Manuel Marquez at 130 pounds (59 kilograms). But the 5-foot-6 (1.68-meter) southpaw didn't have a problem carrying his speed to lightweight when he knocked out David Diaz in June, and thinks he'll be even stronger at welterweight.

"Some people are criticizing Oscar for picking on a small guy like me. Some people say I'm picking this fight for the money," Pacquiao said. "I'm going to prove everyone wrong."

They'll both make plenty of money, though.

Tickets for the bout sold out in a matter of hours, guaranteeing the second-largest gate in boxing history. Golden Boy chief executive Richard Schaefer said ticket revenue will be nearly $17 million (€12 million), second only to De La Hoya-Mayweather, and about 33,000 tickets are going to be offered for fans to see the fight on closed-circuit TV around Las Vegas.

Then there's the pay-per-view take. De La Hoya-Mayweather smashed records with 2.4 million buys and $134.4 million (€95.5 million) in revenue, helped along by the TV reality show that chronicled both fighters in their lead-up to the bout. HBO is filming another four-episode series to boost the De La Hoya-Pacquiao showdown.

And there should be plenty of intriguing story lines.

Pacquiao's longtime trainer is Freddie Roach, who also prepared De La Hoya for his bout against Mayweather. The Golden Boy said that intimate knowledge concerns him, and Roach confided that he saw something in the later rounds against Mayweather that Pacquiao can use to his advantage.

"I learned a lot during that nine-week period and now I'm going to use it against him," Roach said. "Can he still pull the trigger? We'll see."

Insider knowledge won't be limited to Pacquiao's corner.

De La Hoya had hoped to lure Floyd Mayweather Sr. back to his camp, but he had already committed to training Ricky Hatton for his fight against Paulie Malignaggi. So De La Hoya turned to Nacho Beristain, who helped prepare Marquez for both of his bouts against Pacquiao.

Along with his return to welterweight, De La Hoya plans to return to his old training grounds in Big Bear, California, where he prepared for many of the biggest fights of his career.

When asked about the circular nature of going back to where it all began, in the twilight of his career, De La Hoya smiled.

"I have to prove to myself that I can still do this," he said. "Yes, I'm 35. Everyone says that's over the hill for boxing. But I'm still young, I didn't get beat up. So I still want to do this."

LEONG

From Page 28

Group III next year," Race said.

The CNMI coach added he is hoping the Islanders will return to Group II.

Pacific Oceania, who had been in Group II from 2005 to 2007, was relegated to Group III after losing to Qatar last April, 2-3. The Islanders dropped their first round match against Kuwait, 1-4.

Pacific Oceania's foe next year has yet to be drawn. But Group III is composed of Syria, Iran, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Singapore, and Saudi Arabia.

Leong gave the Islanders their two wins against Qatar and took a few weeks break before launching his bid for ATP ranking points.

His first stop was Perth, Australia, joining two tournaments Down Under. He prevailed in two matches in the qualifying tournaments, but failed to make the main draw.

Leong then went to Colombia where he also could not gain entry to the main draw.

On his third trip, this time in Europe, Leong was admitted to the main draw in a Romania event. He also joined the main draw in a tournament in Ukraine.

But the ATP ranking points remained elusive for Leong, as he did not win any match in the main draw in the European tournaments.

ATP ranking points are only awarded after one wins a main draw match. To make it to the main draw, one has to gain three qualifying wins.

From Europe, Leong traveled to Asia and finally earned points when he defeated Nigerian Candy Idoko, 7-6 (5), 6-4, in a tournament in Iran.

From Iran, he went to Azerbaijan, made the main draw and won two matches there before bowing to Russia's Mikkai Vasiliew, 6-7 (8), 7-5, 6-1, in the quarterfinals.

Leong gained two more points from tournaments in Georgia and Egypt before returning home with five ATP points.

JONATHAN

From Page 28

Idaho is competing in the event.

Salas and the Gems competed in the 2008 "AA" American Legion State Tournament, which ran from Aug. 1 to 5 at the Halliwell Park-Bill Derham Field in Pocatello, Idaho.

Salas emerged as the second best hitter of the Gems. He went 46-for-97 at bat for a batting average of .474. Salas had the most triples with six. He also made five doubles, one homer, 22 bases on ball, and had eight stolen bases.

He pitched for the Gems only once and was the winning pitcher. He pitched 9.1 innings, walked eight, struck out four, and gave up only six runs. Salas had a 4.62 ERA.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

TURNING STONE RESORT CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

VERONA, New York (AP)–Scores Thursday from the Turning Stone Resort Championship, played at the par-72, 7,482-yard Atunyote Golf Club:

FIRST ROUND

Jeff Overton	33-34	67
Steve Allan	34-34	68
Michael Allen	35-33	68
Tag Ridings	34-35	69
Carlos Franco	32-37	69
Jason Day	35-34	69
Briny Baird	35-35	70
Bo Van Pelt	34-36	70
Kent Jones	35-35	70
Mark Hensby	34-36	70
Troy Matteson	35-35	70
Paul Claxton	35-35	70
Scott Sterling	37-33	70
Mathew Goggin	36-35	71
Kevin Stadler	35-36	71
Joe Durant	32-39	71
Robert Allenby	33-38	71
Charles Howell III	36-35	71
Heath Slocum	36-35	71
Nick O'Hern	35-36	71
Brandt Jobe	33-38	71
Frank Lickliter II	38-33	71
Pat Perez	36-35	71
Brad Elder	35-36	71
Brian Davis	34-37	71
Kyle Thompson	36-35	71
Tommy Gainey	34-37	71
Lee Janzen	35-37	72
Olin Browne	35-37	72
Greg Kraft	36-36	72
Robert Garrigus	36-36	72
Kevin Na	36-36	72
Dustin Johnson	34-38	72
Patrick Sheehan	37-35	72
Steve Lowery	37-35	72
Ryuji Imada	34-38	72
Harrison Frazar	35-37	72
Bob Estes	35-37	72
Tom Pernice, Jr.	34-38	72
Kenneth Ferrie	34-38	72
Todd Demsey	34-38	72
Chad Collins	35-37	72
Steve Elkington	36-37	73
Rod Pampling	37-36	73
Parker McLachlin	37-36	73
Nathan Green	34-39	73
Tim Petrovic	36-37	73
Robert Gamez	38-35	73
Charles Warren	38-35	73
Carl Pettersson	34-39	73
Sean O'Hair	36-37	73
Johnson Wagner	34-39	73
George McNeill	35-38	73
John Senden	36-37	73
Tim Wilkinson	36-37	73
Chip Sullivan	39-34	73
Brett Rumford	36-37	73
Justin Bolli	37-36	73
Brenden Pappas	38-36	74
John Rollins	36-38	74
Woody Austin	35-39	74
Richard S. Johnson	35-39	74
Rich Beem	36-38	74
Craig Kanada	38-36	74
Bob Sowards	36-38	74
Mathias Gronberg	36-38	74
Ryan Moore	37-37	74
Ryan Armour	37-37	74
Brad Adamonis	36-38	74
Steve Flesch	35-39	74
J.J. Henry	37-37	74
Jay Williamson	36-38	74
John Riegger	37-37	74
Matt Jones	37-37	74
Casey Wittenberg	37-37	74
Cody Freeman	36-38	74
Marc Turnesa	36-38	74
Nick Flanagan	36-38	74
Y.E. Yang	36-38	74
Vaughn Taylor	37-38	75
Jeff Quinney	35-40	75
Bill Haas	38-37	75
Jim McGovern	37-38	75
Nicholas Thompson	36-39	75
Will MacKenzie	36-39	75
Davis Love III	37-38	75
Eric Axley	40-35	75
Jesper Parnevik	38-37	75
Michael Bradley	35-40	75
Danny Lee	35-40	75
Brett Quigley	37-38	75
Jeff Maggert	34-41	75
Joe Ogilvie	40-35	75
Cameron Beckman	36-39	75
Steve Marino	36-39	75
Shane Bertsch	37-38	75
Michael Letzig	36-40	76
Brad Faxon	36-40	76
David Duval	38-38	76
Notah Begay III	40-36	76
Kevin Streelman	40-36	76
James Driscoll	38-38	76
Ron Whittaker	37-39	76
Richard Johnson	36-40	76
Dicky Pride	36-40	76
Chris DiMarco	37-39	76
Tim Herron	39-37	76
J.P. Hayes	36-41	77
Nick Watney	37-40	77
Jason Gore	37-40	77
Joey Sindelar	38-39	77
Chris Stroud	37-40	77
David Lutterus	39-38	77
Jon Mills	38-39	77
Martin Laird	36-41	77
Peter Lonard	37-41	78
Deane Pappas	36-42	78
Ted Purdy	38-40	78
Omar Uresti	38-40	78
Jin Park	37-41	78
Travis Perkins	39-39	78
John Mallinger	39-39	78
John Merrick	38-40	78
Jason Allred	37-42	79
Cliff Kresge	39-40	79
Doug LaBelle II	39-40	79
Todd Hamilton	39-41	80
Jimmy Walker	39-41	80
Kirk Triplett	40-40	80
Tom Scherrer	39-43	82
Jeff Reader	41-44	85

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Belau Softball Standings

Men's Division

Brotherhood	9	1
PTI	9	2
Ready Mix	7	2
Man Amigos	5	3
Auel Auel	8	3
Choll Aces	6	4
Sai Pal	5	5
PIC	5	6
Falcons	3	8
Haga "T"	2	9
Ngiwal	1	8
Bombers	1	10

Women's Division

Hitters	8	1
Sakudi	8	1
Ohn Sakau	4	5
Esta Ombe	3	6
Atu'Asi	2	7

Sakudi, Hitters favored in BASA women's playoffs
Sakudi and the Hitters, the two top teams in the women's division of the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow-pitch League, will face separate foes in the start of playoffs tomorrow, Oct. 5, at the Dandan Ballfield.
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Longoria's 2 homers lead Rays over White Sox
In their first ever playoff game, the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Chicago White Sox 6-4 on Thursday in the opener of their American League Division Series.
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Thea is lone September selection

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI junior netter Thea Minor's impressive showing in New Caledonia earned her the September NMASA Female Student Athlete of the Month award.

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association recognized Minor's performance in tournaments in the French territory during NMASA's monthly meeting Thursday night at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Minor was in New Caledonia for two weeks last month to compete in tournaments in Lifoi in the Provincial Islands and in Noumea.

ATHLETES of the MONTH

The 13-year-old netter was part of the Pacific Oceania team that challenged New Caledonia players.

Her first stop was in Lifoi, playing against qualifiers from New Caledonia's three provinces, namely the North of the Province Tennis, South of the Province Tennis, and the Provincial Islands Tennis.

Together with teammates Annie Shannon, Maria Tere Apisah, and Tarani Kamoe, Minor participated in a Davis Cup-styled tournament and ruled the event.

From Lifoi, Minor went to Noumea to compete in the Open Jeunes 2008 at TC Olympique court. She was entered in the girls' 13-and-under division and was pitted against much older foes in the 17-18 age group.

Minor made it to the semifinals of both age groups.

She was seeded eighth in the younger age group and clobbered Yaelle Honakoko in the first round, 6-0, 6-2. Minor advanced to the quarterfinals after whipping Lucila Pattoua, 6-1, 6-4, and went on to gain a semis entry

See THEA on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Thea Minor poses with her medal from a tournament in New Caledonia shortly after arriving from her stint in the French territory last month.

'Leong's ATP ranking a boost to Pacific Oceania Davis Cup players'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATP

Former Davis Cup non-playing captain Jeff Race of the CNMI is ecstatic over Pacific Oceania's chances in next year's Asia-Oceania Davis Cup Group III tie following Michael Leong's recent achievement.

Leong, who was part of the Islanders' roster in this year's Davis Cup and is expected to make the team again next year, became the first Pacific Oceania player to gain professional rankings. The Solomon Islands netter is now ranked No. 1,338 after playing in various tournaments in the ITF Men's Pro Circuit this year.

Race

"It was a long deserved achievement for Mikee, who had to travel from one continent to another in three months to get ATP ranking points. I know he has been working hard to get those points," said Race, who coached Leong in Davis Cup for four years before Cyrille Mainguy took over the coaching post early this year.

"And Mikee getting ATP ranking points means good news for our Davis Cup team as this will boost Mikee and his teammates confidence when they play in

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Jonathan Salas to play third base in Arizona Classic

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

ATHLETES ABROAD

Jonathan P. Salas will play at third base for Team Idaho in the upcoming Arizona Senior Fall Classic Baseball Tournament to be held on Oct. 16-19 at the Peoria Sports Complex in Phoenix.

Salas is excited to play for the first time in this annual event, one of the most highly anticipated high school events for both professional and college scouts.

He was selected to represent Idaho State, along with three other teammates at Timberline High School in Boise, Idaho.Salas played for the Dandan Jets, Sluggers, and Blue Jays in the Saipan Little League. In the U.S. Mainland, he suited up for Timberline Jr. Varsity High School and Varsity and Boise Gems Legion League.

Team Idaho's Jonathan P. Salas, seen here in a file photo, will play third base in the upcoming Arizona Senior Fall Classic Baseball Tournament.
SAIPAN TRIBUNE

He also played two times in the Jr. League World Series (Taylor, Michigan) and 2007 Sr. League in Bangor, Maine.

The 17-year-old, who also occasionally pitches, attended junior high at Kagman and is now a senior at Timberline High School.

Her mother Cathy was very thankful of his son's inclusion saying Jonathan went to the try out with a lot of confidence.

She said he was quite surprised but also privileged to have made the Team Idaho roster for the Arizona Classic.

"He has so much passion for the sport since his Little League years and continues to work and practice hard," she said.

Some 250 college and major league scouts are expected to show up for the event.

Handling the team, which is managed by Idaho Baseball Inc., are two experienced coaches, Aaron Sutton, assistant coach at Treasure Valley Community College; and Jeff Reifman, assistant coach at Boise High School and former participant of the Fall Classic.

It would be the 10th consecutive year that Team

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De La Hoya says match vs Pacquiao not the end, plans to fight again next year

By DAVE SKRETTA
AP SPORTS WRITER

BOXING

NEW YORK (AP)—Oscar De La Hoya wants to fight at least a couple of more times after taking on Filipino hero Manny Pacquiao on Dec. 6 in Las Vegas, in what is sure to be the biggest fight of the year.

"There's no doubt about it. My mind can still do it, my body can still do it," De La

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AP
Oscar De La Hoya, left, Olympic gold medalist and 10-time world champion boxer, and Manny Pacquiao of the Phillipines, currently the WBC lightweight and WBC super featherweight champions, show their fist in front of the Statue of Liberty for a press conference, Wednesday Oct. 1 , 2008 in New York.